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GARDENS

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Plants galore

Old-fashioned roses
Best cottage garden campanulas
How to plant for butterflies

DAN PEARSON'S
modern Cotswold country garden

The romantic gardens of
CHENIES TUDOR MANOR

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editor's letter

There are many unsung heroes in the gardening world and I often think that plant breeders and regular gardeners dedicated to a specific type of plant don't get the credit they deserve. This issue we look at the work of several plant experts, including André Eve, an octogenarian rosarian, who has spent a lifetime growing and breeding roses. He is particularly enchanted by old-fashioned roses and has created a garden and a nursery in France devoted to them. We also visit Dillycot, whose owners have developed a garden specifically to attract butterflies, while writer Val Bourne, who for the past three years has been studying campanulas for the RHS trials at Wisley, shares her findings on the most attractive and well behaved among them. I first came across The Real Seed Catalogue about 12 years ago and have never ceased to be impressed by their collection of heritage and heirloom vegetable seeds. Organic grower Tom Petherick talks to owners Ben and Kate about the ethos behind their company. We also visit gardens at Chenies Manor in Buckinghamshire, Pitmuies in Scotland, and a remarkable Cotswold garden designed by Dan Pearson. It's worth noting that the Garden Museum are holding a fascinating exhibition looking at Dan's achievements. Finally, we celebrate the work of Jim Buckland and Sarah Wain, the inspirational and influential gardeners at West Dean in Sussex. I hope you enjoy the issue.

Juliet

GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED
Plants galore

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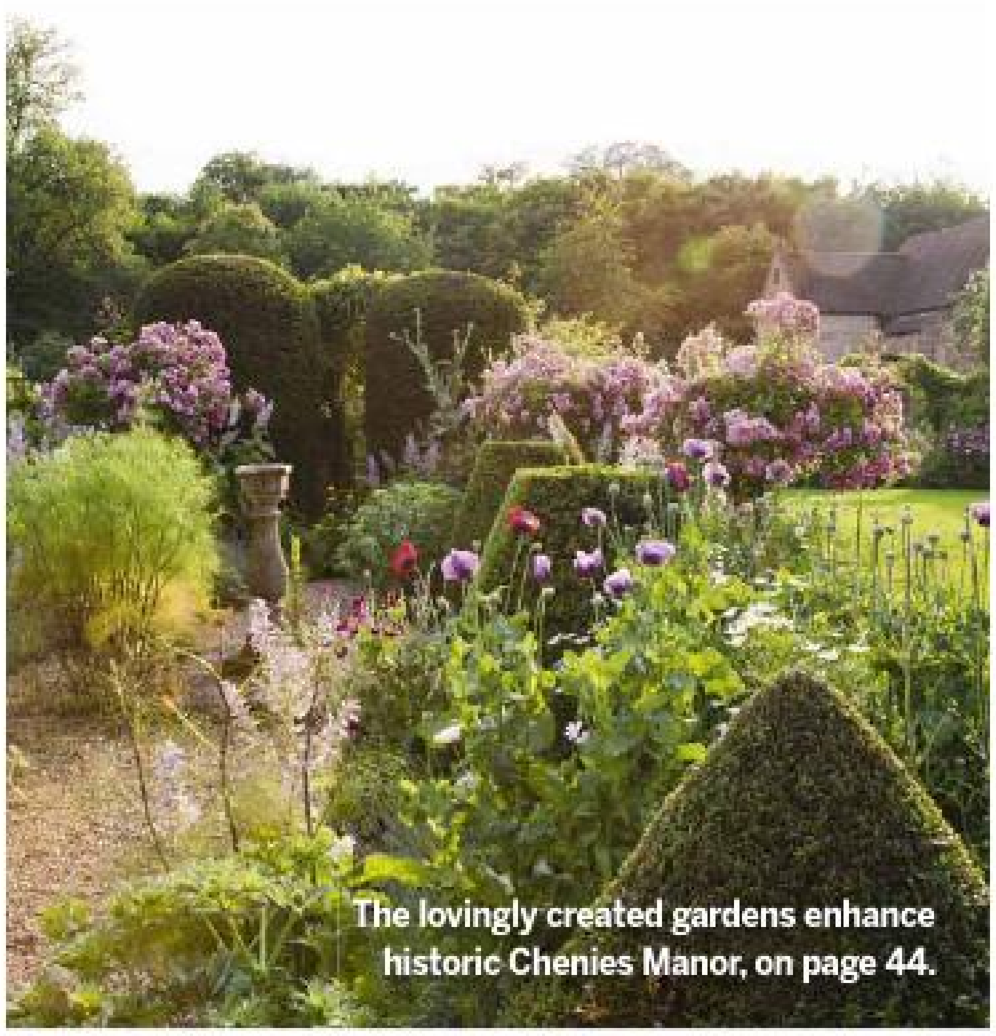
Planting to attract butterflies and bees – see page 52.



The lovingly created gardens enhance historic Chenies Manor, on page 44.

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Plantsman and head gardener at Great Dixter in East Sussex.

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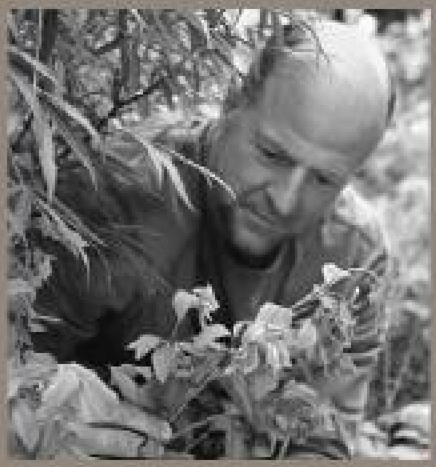

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Garden designer, plantsman and columnist.

LYNN KEDDIE, ABIGAIL REX

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Rosa 'Constance Spry'.
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Free one month trial

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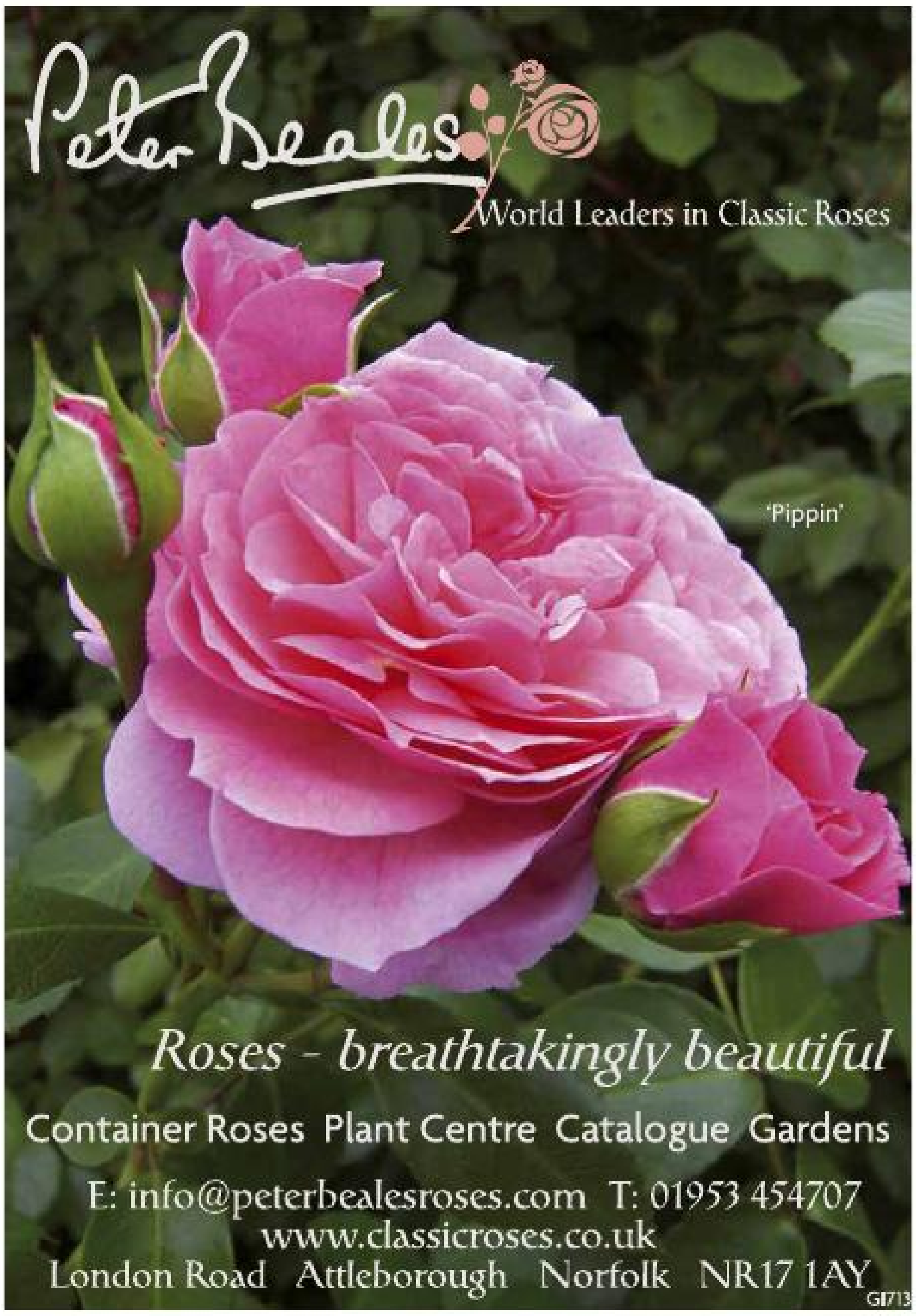
- Join our **exclusive GARDENS ILLUSTRATED reader day** with Fergus Garrett discussing bulbs at Great Dixter – see page 17
- Visit the **International Meeting of the Landscape and Garden** in Bergamo, Italy – see page 104



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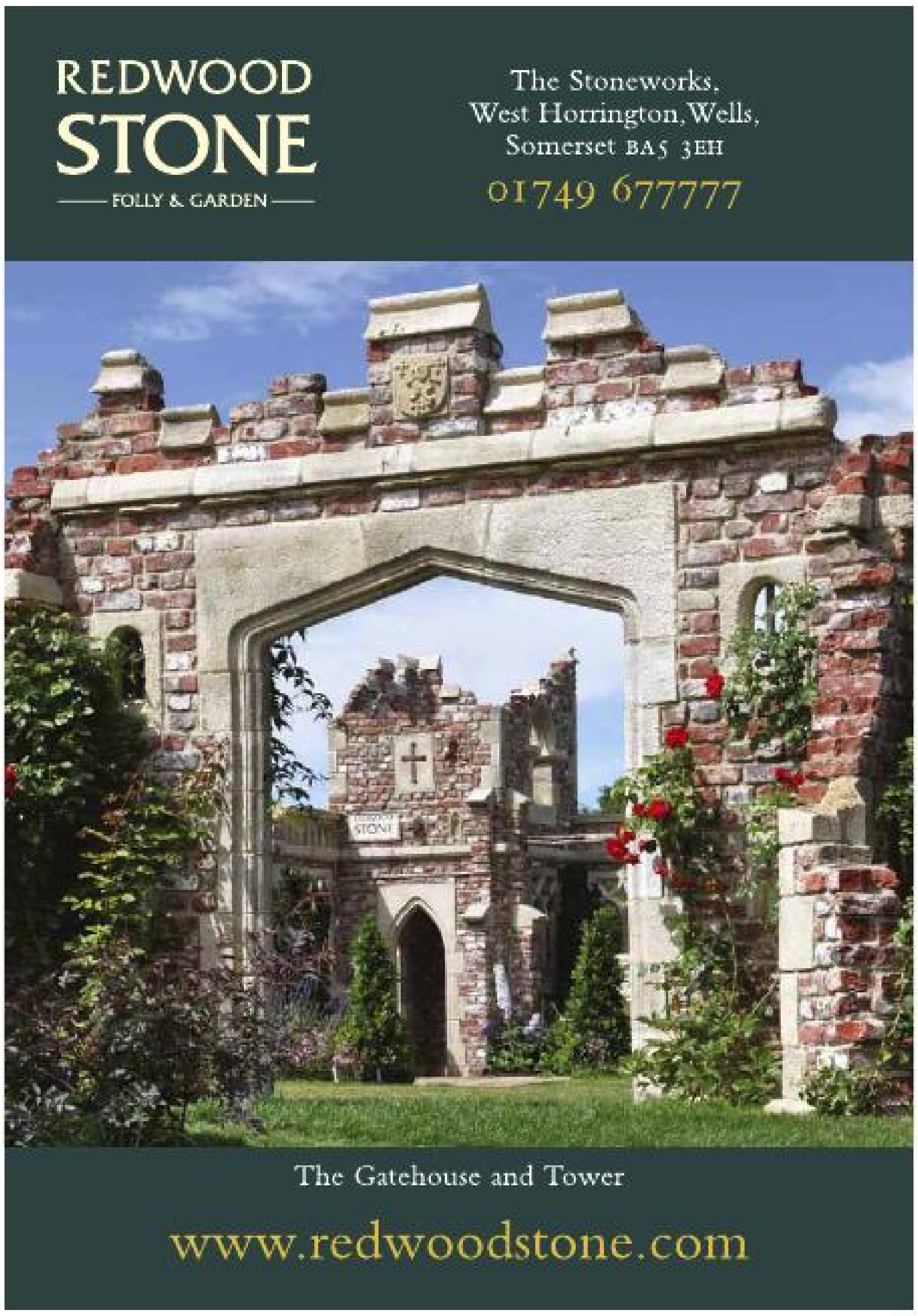

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ABC July-Dec 2012
34,510

contributors

CLIVE NICHOLS

Clive Nichols is a judge for the International Garden Photographer of the Year Competition and has written two books for the RHS on garden photography. You can see the results of his visit to André Eve's rose nursery on page 76.

"André Eve is one of the great names in French horticulture and his garden and nursery deserve to be better known."

ANDREW MONTGOMERY

JULIA WYLIE

Julia has worked as a professional gardener for 15 years. She specialises in naturalistic planting and enjoys rejuvenating existing schemes for clients who would like their gardens to evolve and be wildlife friendly. She gives advice on planting in pots on page 38.

"It was a pleasure to work with photographer Andrew Montgomery and I always enjoy container planting."

JACKY HOBBS

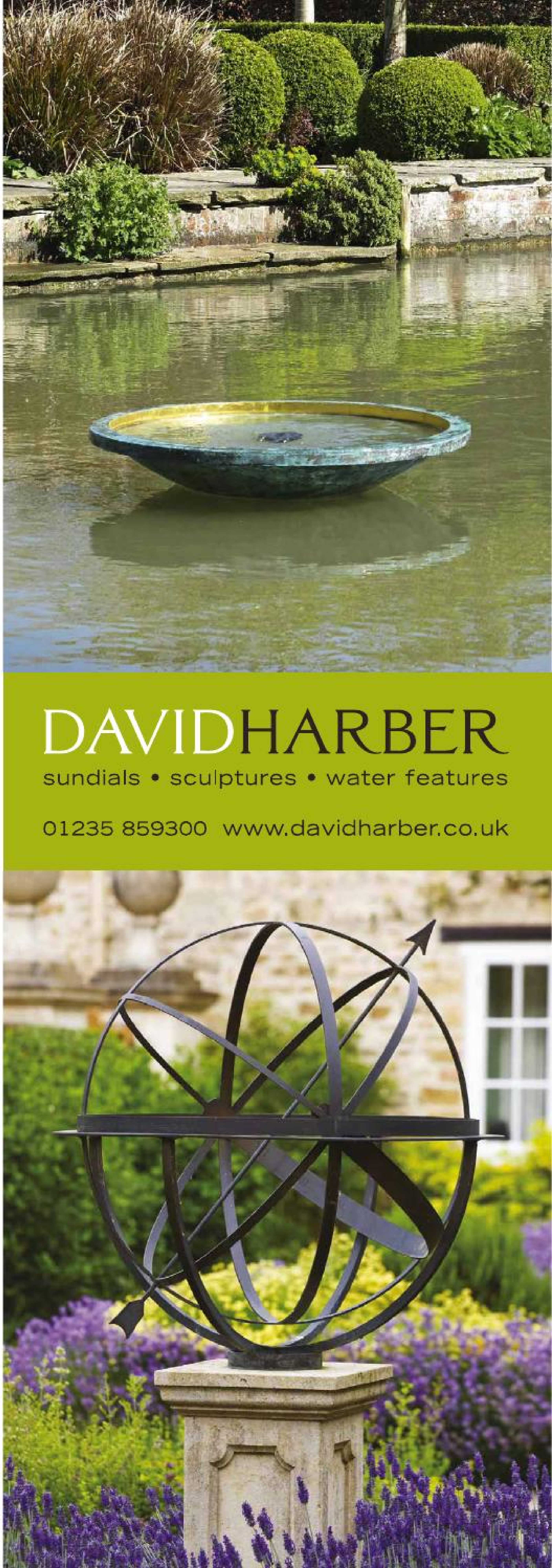
Jacky styles interiors and gardens and writes related articles for magazines. Her own London home is a beautiful and practical location for many flower, plant and interiors shoots. She writes about André Eve's nursery on page 76.

"I've never witnessed roses so beautifully amassed as in André Eve's Nursery – the perfume was overwhelming."

PAULA MCWATERS

A long-established writer and editor, Paula visits hundreds of gardens and never tires of meeting gardeners and telling their stories in a variety of publications. On page 64 it's the turn of multiple award winners Jim Buckland and Sarah Wain of West Dean in Sussex.

"Jim and Sarah are a tour de force, combining creativity and horticultural knowledge with a wicked sense of humour."



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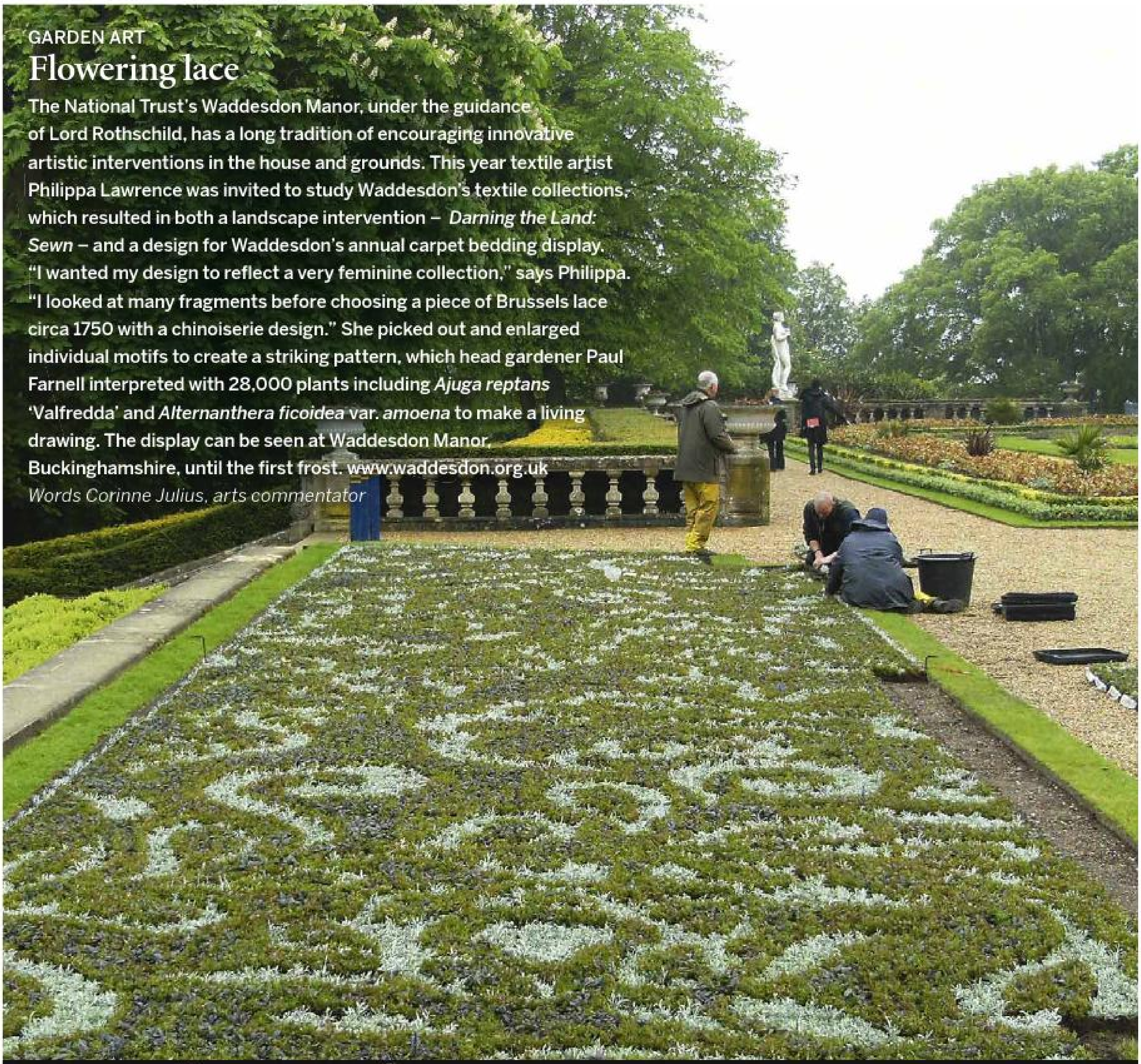
News, Gardening talent, Nurseryman's favourites & Gardener's notes

NEWS COMPILED BY SORREL EVERTON

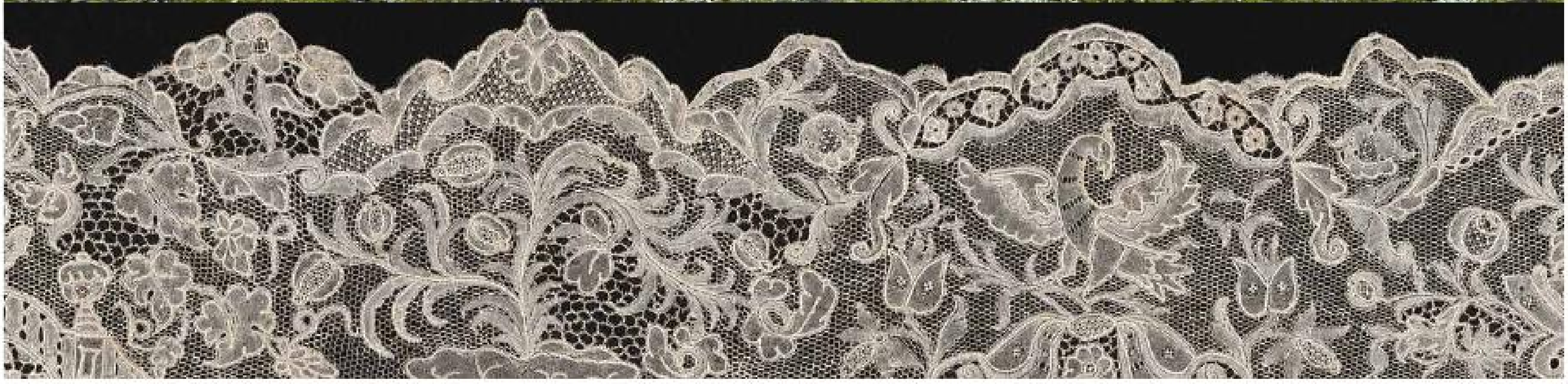


GARDEN ART

Flowering lace

The National Trust's Waddesdon Manor, under the guidance of Lord Rothschild, has a long tradition of encouraging innovative artistic interventions in the house and grounds. This year textile artist Philippa Lawrence was invited to study Waddesdon's textile collections, which resulted in both a landscape intervention – *Darning the Land: Sewn* – and a design for Waddesdon's annual carpet bedding display. "I wanted my design to reflect a very feminine collection," says Philippa. "I looked at many fragments before choosing a piece of Brussels lace circa 1750 with a chinoiserie design." She picked out and enlarged individual motifs to create a striking pattern, which head gardener Paul Farnell interpreted with 28,000 plants including *Ajuga reptans* 'Valfredda' and *Alternanthera ficoidea* var. *amoena* to make a living drawing. The display can be seen at Waddesdon Manor, Buckinghamshire, until the first frost. www.waddesdon.org.uk

Words Corinne Julius, arts commentator



PAUL FARNELL, WADDESDON MANOR

DAVID AUSTIN'S PLANT CENTRE AND ROSE GARDENS

Our world-famous rose gardens in Shropshire will be reaching their spectacular first peak of flowering around mid-June to mid-July, when the roses will be looking their best. After this, they will go on to repeat flower in flushes over a long season through to the first frosts. We encourage you to visit us to see how amazingly beautiful and rewarding our repeat-flowering English Roses can be, as they generously add their colour and fragrance to the summer garden.

In the Lion Garden, four long borders are filled with a wonderful combination of shrub roses, including many English Roses. The Renaissance Garden's central canal leads to a beautifully proportioned loggia, creating a feeling of peace and tranquillity. Over 700 different varieties are on display, including the National Collection of English Roses, rambling roses, climbers, Old Roses and standard roses.

The themed gardens are open to the public all year round from 9am to 5pm, 7 days a week, free of charge. Accessible to wheelchairs.

PLANT CENTRE

We have an impressive range of containerised roses to take home, many of which can be seen growing in the gardens, together with an excellent selection of companion shrubs and herbaceous plants.

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Freshly prepared, seasonal lunches are served in our restaurant, housed in a half-timber framed building, with exposed oak beams. Our special afternoon teas are served at 3.15pm each day, by prior reservation.

GIFT SHOP

Our gift shop provides a range of outdoor lifestyle and home décor ideas, as well as great gifts. Plant lovers will enjoy browsing our collection of horticultural books.

COURSES & EVENTS

We hold events throughout the year at our Plant Centre, including a series of courses designed to help gardeners get more pleasure from growing their roses. Please check our website for details.

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SHOWS

North and south

July sees both the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show (9-14 July) and RHS Flower Show Tatton (25-28 July). Hampton Court has a new look with zones themed around 'Inspire', 'Grow' and 'Escape' to help visitors get the most out of their visit. Tatton is also set out in zones including 'Feast', which will focus on grow your own. As ever, both shows will offer plenty of show gardens and nursery displays for plant enthusiasts.

More details on 0844 338 7506, www.rhs.org.uk

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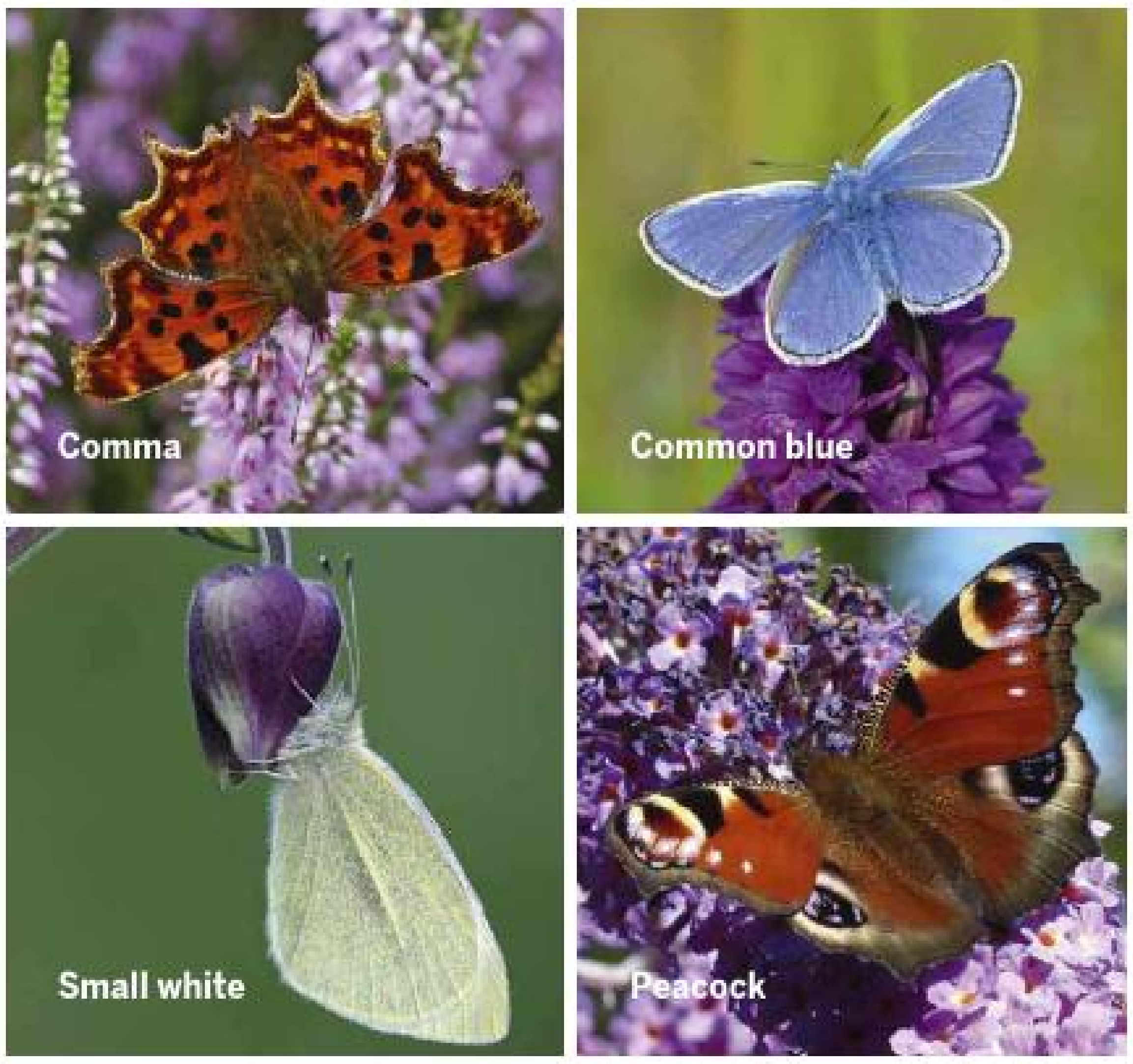
ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY; BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION; MATT BERRY; TIM MELLING; NICK EDGE & HEATH MCDONALD

WILDLIFE

Flutter by

Faced with similar environmental threats to other pollinating insects, butterfly numbers are declining. Help Butterfly Conservation assess the health and vulnerability of our native species by taking part in this summer's Big Butterfly Count between 20 July – 11 August. Pick a dry preferably sunny day in your garden, park or local school and note the number and species of butterflies and moths you see in a 15-minute session. There's an identification chart on the website to help you spot typical species. To find out more and register go to www.bigbutterflycount.org



See our feature on planting for butterflies on page 52.

FLORAL FABRICS

Artist and designer Emma Hardicker now produces a range of fabrics for home furnishings using her graphic prints. Inspired by nature and botanicals, the designs are printed on to cotton. Choose from 'Daffodils' in slate, olive or teal or 'Spring' in grey, olive or teal. £48 per metre. Tel 07719 548170, www.emmahardicker.com

EVENT

Grow it yourself

The GIY UK Gathering, on 20 July in Birmingham, brings together 300 people for a day of practical and philosophical talks about growing your own food – with a particular focus on community food growing. Speakers include climate change pioneer gardener Mark Diacono (back), gardener and presenter Alys Fowler (left), writer Lia Leendertz (middle) and GIY UK founder Michael Kelly (right). £25, 9.30am-5pm. University of Birmingham B15 2TT. www.giyinternational.org

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WEBSITES

Plant, grow, give, swap

Those interested in growing and sharing should check these two new websites. **Green Plant Swap** offers an online platform for small-time growers or individuals to buy, sell and swap plants. Members can indicate plants they are interested in, or those they have an excess of, for other members to respond to, at www.greenplantswap.co.uk. Meanwhile **Crunchd** invites people to share information on what they are growing, give advice, trade excess harvests and suggest recipes among like-minded garden enthusiasts – all in the aim of promoting the growing, cooking and eating of homemade food. www.crunchd.co.uk

---

COPING WITH SLUGS & SNAILS

If molluscs are ravaging your plot you might like to try a new product from Grazers, which claims to be effective against slug and snail damage. The unique spray-on formula is absorbed by the plant and acts both to strengthen and stimulate growth. The product claims no harmful impact to pets, wildlife or the environment, and without actually killing the slugs and snails means they are still left for the benefit of more desirable garden wildlife. £6.99 for 750ml spray container, available at garden centres or via www.grazers.co.uk

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Coughton Court

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- **Coughton Court Rose Festival**

Head gardener Sam Tippens leads tours to look at the roses, also giving tips on rose care, cultivation, companion and underplanting. 23 June – 7 July. Tours twice a day (12 noon and 3pm), £5 to book in advance. Coughton Court, Alcester B49 5JA. Tel 07592 775177, www.coughtoncourt.co.uk

- **Woottens of Wenhaston Pelargonium Day**

200 varieties of pelargonium on show, expert advice and discount on sales. 30 June, 10am-4pm. Woottens of Wenhaston, Wenhaston, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 9HD. Tel 01502 478 258, www.woottensplants.com

- **Garden Party at Fenton House**

Hosted by the Idler Academy and National Trust at 17th-century Fenton House with gardening lessons, music and stalls selling produce from local artisans. Part of The London Project's aim to promote the urban 'green' environment. 6 July, 11am-6pm, £6 (NT members £4). Fenton House, Hampstead Grove, Hampstead NW3 6SP. Book from www.idler.co.uk

- **Inspiring planting combinations talk**

Ideas for combining plants in different areas of your garden. Examples of shrubs, ferns, grasses and herbaceous perennials will be combined to create interest using flower and foliage. 17 July. Cath's Garden Plants, The Walled Garden, Heaves Hotel, Nr Levens, Cumbria LA8 8EF. Tel 01539 561126, www.cathsgardenplants.co.uk

- **Whichford Pottery – Shape up your garden**

Weekend of plant sales, talks and tools with the focus on topiary and 'creative pruning'. 19-20 July, 10am-5pm, Whichford Pottery, Nr Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire CV36 5PG. Free talks from experts Jake Hobson and Angus White at 11am and 2pm both days. Please book on 01608 684416, www.whichfordpottery.com

- **Myddelton House Kitchen Garden tour**

Historic garden of plantsman EA Bowles. Explore seasonal highlights from the recently renovated productive kitchen garden. 27 July, 2-4pm, £2.50. Myddelton House Gardens, Bulls Cross, Enfield, Essex EN2 9HG. Book on 08456 770600, www.visitleevalley.co.uk

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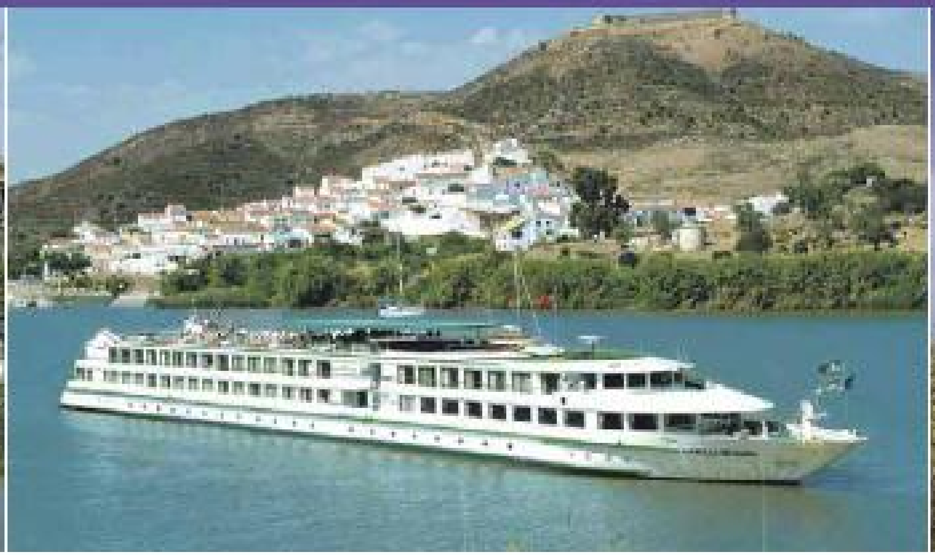

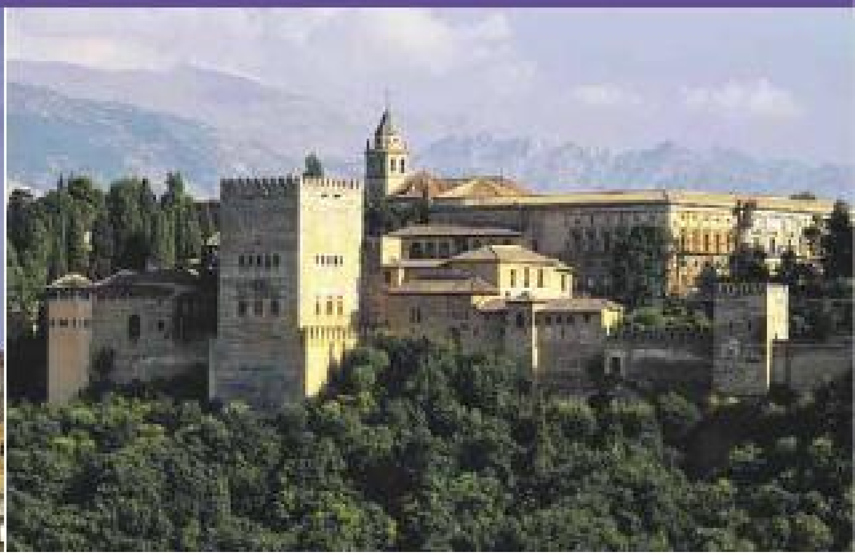

Music & Art in Andalucia

Seven nights in Seville staying aboard the MS Belle de Cadix with London Festival Opera

6th to 13th February 2014 & 27th November to 4th December 2014

Join us as we discover the beauty and wonders of Andalucia, a captivating region and one of the most attractive areas within the Mediterranean due to its climate, history and culture. The region has an intriguing past and was conquered by Phoenicians, Greeks, Carthaginians and Romans, later by Vandals and Suevians, before the Arabs occupied the region for five centuries. Our base while we explore the region is the MS Belle de Cadix which will be moored in the fascinating city of Seville, the city of Carmen, Don Juan and Figaro. The fourth largest city in Spain, Seville is joyous and colourful and its riches and attractions are infinite: the ancient minaret of Giralda, the cathedral, the Fine Arts museum, the old quarter of Santa Cruz. Further afield we will visit other Andalucian gems; the "Pueblos Blancos", including the romantic town of Ronda.

We have purposely planned our trip early and late in the year to avoid the tourist high season months. In addition to the music programme we have arranged a number of excursions both in the city and beyond and together with our local guides we can promise you a very special time in Seville. To compliment your tour, our good friends from London Festival Opera will accompany us and perform evocative musical repertoires to set the Moorish mood.

MS Belle de Cadix

Our base for our week in Seville is the MS Belle de Cadix, a spacious vessel accommodating passengers in well-appointed cabins. She has recently been refurbished and is a unique and ideal base for our stay in Seville. All cabins measure 11.4 square metres and have en-suite facilities. Spread over three decks, the onboard facilities include a delightful restaurant which accommodates all guests in one sitting. The lounge is a pleasant space for relaxation with large panoramic windows, a large TV and bar area. In addition there is a lift and gift shop. On the large, spacious Sun Deck you will find comfortable deck furniture.

The Itinerary

Day 1 - London to Seville. Fly to Seville or Malaga from either London Gatwick or London City Airport. On arrival transfer to the MS Belle de Cadix and embark.

Day 2 - Seville. Our morning excursion "the myths of Carmen and Don Giovanni", includes a visit to the bullring and the Hospital de la Caridad with extraordinary paintings from famous Sevillian artists and whose founder Miguel de Mañara has been considered the source of inspiration for the myth around Don Juan. Our tour ends with a visit to the Santa Cruz Quarter. This evening London Festival Opera will perform a programme which will include highlights from Bizet's 'Carmen'.

Day 3 - Ronda & Pueblos Blancos. The brilliantly white washed villages and towns of inland Andalucia are called Pueblos Blancos. We take a scenic drive through this region to Ronda, a picturesque town of Celtic origin. We will have lunch in a local restaurant followed by some free time. On our journey back to Seville we will make a photostop by Zahara de la Sierra, one of the classic 'white villages'. After dinner this evening there will be a flamenco performance on board by local artists.

Day 4 - Seville. Today see the exotic Royal Alcazar, with its delightful terraced garden. Continue on to visit the Cathedral, reputed to be the largest Gothic style church in the world. Also see Seville's symbol, the Giralda Tower. This evening enjoy an after dinner performance by London Festival Opera.

Day 5 - Romantic Seville & Gala night. During today's morning excursion you will discover "Romantic Seville". We will first visit Casa Pilatos. It is not only popular because of its combination of Spanish Mudejar, Gothic and Italian Renaissance style, but also for its Roman antiquities, its canvases and furniture of various epochs. Afterwards we will walk to the Palace of the Countess of Lebrija, also known as Palacio de la Condesa de Lebrija which is considered the "best paved house-palace in Europe" owing to its collection of Roman mosaics. In the evening London Festival Opera will perform 'A Spanish Soirée' of celebrated opera and song at the splendid hotel Alfonso XIII. After a cocktail in the galleries and inner courtyard, a Gala Dinner is served in the majestic Royal Dining Room.

Day 6 - Seville. Today will be at leisure or you can join one of the full day optional excursions to the Alhambra Palace in Granada or Cordoba.

Day 7 - Seville. This morning we visit the Museo de Bellas Artes, one of the most important art museums in Spain. Return to the ship for lunch and your final afternoon is at leisure. This evening there will be a Farewell Drinks and Dinner followed by an 'Opera Gala Night' performed in costume by London Festival Opera.

Day 8 - Seville to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to Seville or Malaga airport for the return scheduled flight to London.

Prices & Inclusions

Prices per person based on double occupancy start from £1495 for a twin cabin on the main deck to £1885 for an upper deck twin cabin. Prices for sole use from £1495.

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled flights from London to Seville or Malaga (with 2.5 hour transfer), 7 nights aboard the MS Belle Cadix on full board, drinks (wine/beer/soft drinks) with lunch and dinner, excursions as described, music performances on board and ashore, all gratuities, transfers, services of a Tour Director, UK Tour Manager and Guest Speaker, port and airport taxes.
Not included: Travel insurance, optional full day excursion to Granada /Cordoba.
NB: Itinerary and performances subject to change. Choice of flights is subject to availability. Flights to Seville are with Easyjet, flights to Malaga are with British Airways. Minimum numbers are required for optional excursions to operate. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.

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Jo Campbell

Passionate about growing vegetables, Jo has worked at Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons and recently travelled to India to research vegetable growing

PORTRAIT ANDREW MONTGOMERY

Earliest gardening memory When I was a child, mum would grow rows of beetroot, potatoes and peas, and I would go to the nearby woods and collect twiggy pea-sticks for staking. Also, I will always remember growing my first crop of broad beans and tasting the small, sweet, bright green beans.

Your career path to horticulture I took a degree in Fine Art Sculpture with the intention of working in the industry. In between jobs I worked in the kitchens of a country pub. It was only after seeing an advert in a local paper and starting work as an assistant gardener that my new career path began. Now the kitchen garden is my blank canvas and allows me to be creative with the colours, form and textures of all things edible.

Horticultural heroes Raymond Blanc may seem like an unusual choice but his passion for growing and trialling vegetables for flavour is inspirational. Other heroes include Joy Larkcom for her informative books, which become bibles for growing; Jekka McVicar for her immense knowledge of herbs and Sarah Raven for her expertise in growing and arranging cut flowers.

Garden influences The classic French potager for the art of combining vegetables, herbs, fruit and flowers in such a way that it looks beautiful while still providing produce.

Worthwhile tip for every gardener Keep a garden diary for recording sowing and planting dates, quantities and the weather, valuable for referencing when planning the following season.

Favourite planting style Companion planting – using beneficial planting combinations to promote growth, encourage predators and pollinators and deter pests. This practice also adds an ornamental touch to the edible garden as well as being productive.

Least favourite plant group While one of my favourite plants in the garden is 'Cavolo nero', the *Brassica* family is my least favourite plant group to grow. They are undeniably pest magnets, from flea beetles to pigeons. A constant battle, armed with nets, rootfly collars and fleece.

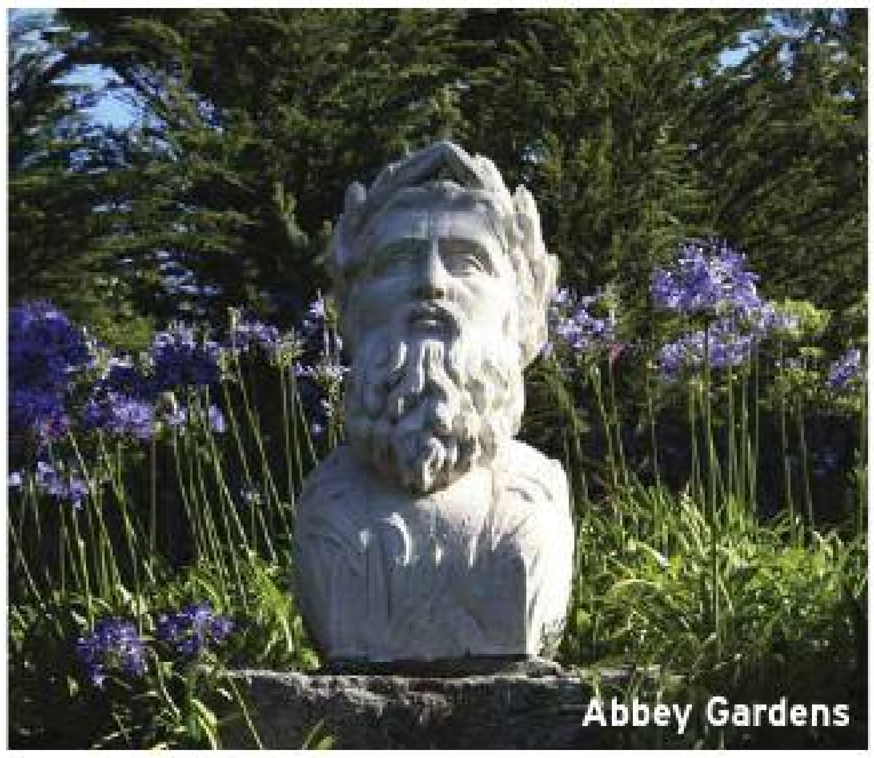
What principles have guided your attitude to gardening Look after your soil and it will look after your plants; grow seasonally; you never stop learning.

Contact email address jokitchengarden@hotmail.co.uk

Tresco's Abbey Gardens

brightwater
holidays

Abbey Gardens


Abbey Gardens

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- Boat transfers between St Mary's and Tresco
- Entry to Tresco's Abbey Gardens

We also offer upgrades to the award-winning Hell Bay Hotel on Bryher, a luxurious hotel with a stunning location that offers superb cuisine in the three AA rosettes restaurant, from £130pp supplement – please ask for details.

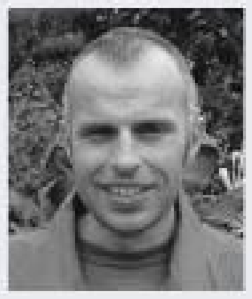
A £45pp reduction applies to those who do not require rail travel.

The New Inn Tresco

EXCLUSIVE READER DAY

Bulb planting at Great Dixter

Spend a day with Great Dixter's head gardener Fergus Garrett, gathering ideas and advice on bulb planting and combinations to ensure spring starts with a burst of colour



Head gardener Fergus Garrett is an expert plantsman and gardener who continues to garden at Great Dixter in the spirit of innovation for which its late owner Christopher Lloyd was known and loved.

Using the gardens and borders at Great Dixter as inspiration, Fergus Garrett talks through the varied uses of bulbs in the garden. Planting ideas will include: naturalised planting in grass and meadows; using bulbs mixed within permanent border plantings; using bulbs as pocket plantings and creating bulb displays in containers. Fergus will also give advice on how to deal with bulbs after flowering and what to consider when buying your bulbs. There will be practical demonstrations throughout the day, plus the opportunity to buy bulbs from the nursery at a 10 per cent discount.

Tickets cost £100

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Tickets and directions will be sent out prior to the event.
Places are limited so booking is essential.
Please advise us of any dietary requirements or accessibility queries.

*Calls to this number from a BT landline will cost 10p per minute. Calls from mobiles and other providers may vary. For more details about the day itself call Great Dixter on 01797 252878 or go to www.greatdixter.co.uk/events.htm.
Great Dixter, Northam, Rye, East Sussex TN31 6PH

DATE

Monday 21 October 2013

HELD AT

Great Dixter, near Hastings
in East Sussex

PROGRAMME

9.45am Arrival and coffee

10am Talk and demonstrations by Fergus Garrett on using bulbs in the garden

12.45pm Champagne Taittinger reception in the Great Hall, followed by lunch

1.45pm Further ideas and demonstrations on bulb planting

4.30pm Tea in the nursery, plus the opportunity to buy bulbs

CHAMPAGNE
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GREAT DIXTER

Verbascum 'Christo's Yellow Lightning'

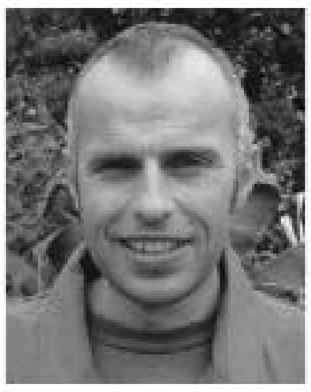
An impressive short-lived perennial, which is possibly a hybrid between *Verbascum speciosum* and *Verbascum chaixii*. Discovered in the stockbeds at Great Dixter, selected out, and propagated vegetatively from roots to keep all its distinctive characteristics. Won a unanimous Award of Garden Merit (AGM) at the plant trials at Wisley, where it was unrivalled for its spectacular chunky flowering spikes. Grey-green elliptic leaves sit in a rosette flush with the ground, from which rise candelabras of flowering stems dripping in hundreds of soft yellow flowers. Named after an ageing white donkey carrying bundles of verbascum stalks for firewood, Christo and I met in Eastern Turkey.

Height/Spread 2m x 50cm. AGM*.
Origins Naturally occurring hybrid from Great Dixter Gardens.
Conditions Full sun in most soils.
Season July – August.

July plants

Great Dixter is enchanting at this time of year. Head gardener Fergus Garrett recommends nine plants that make the most of summer

WORDS FERGUS GARRETT PHOTOGRAPHS SHARON PEARSON



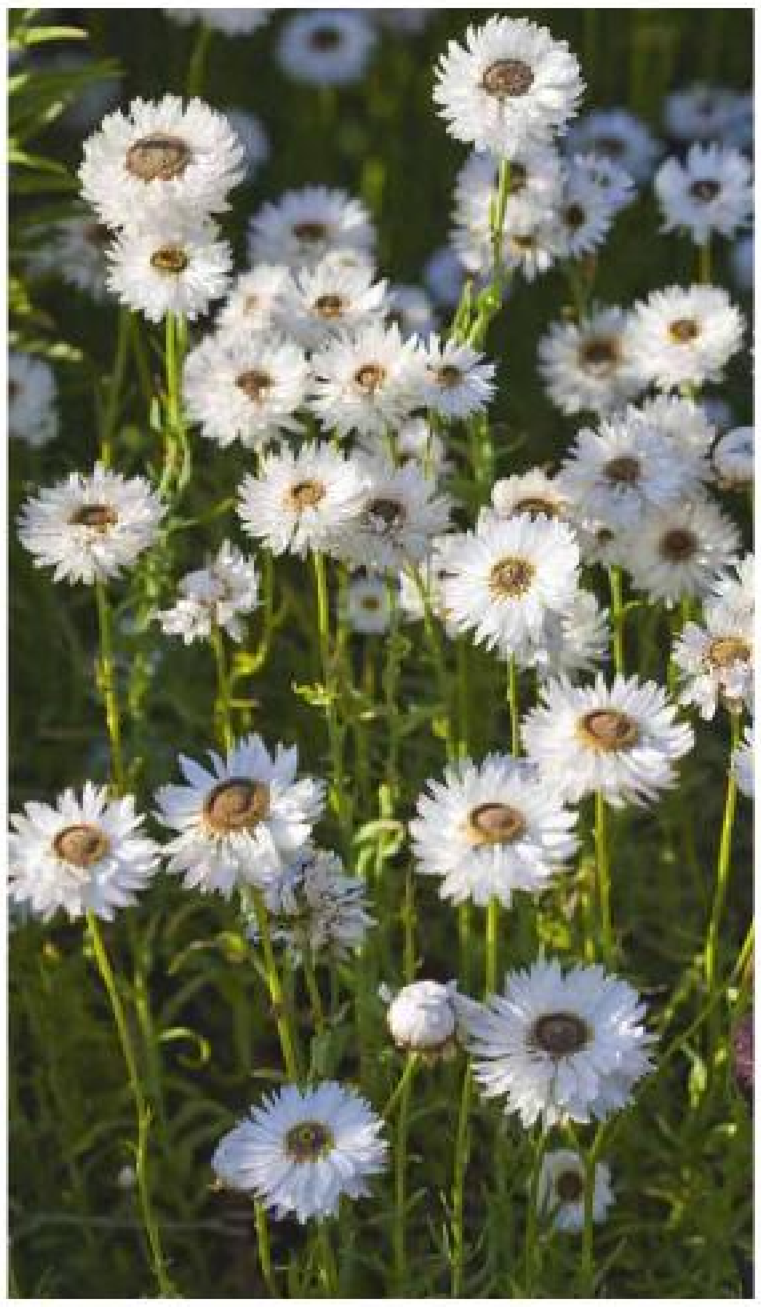
Fergus Garrett is a plantsman and head gardener at Great Dixter in East Sussex. He also lectures, writes and serves on Royal Horticultural Society committees

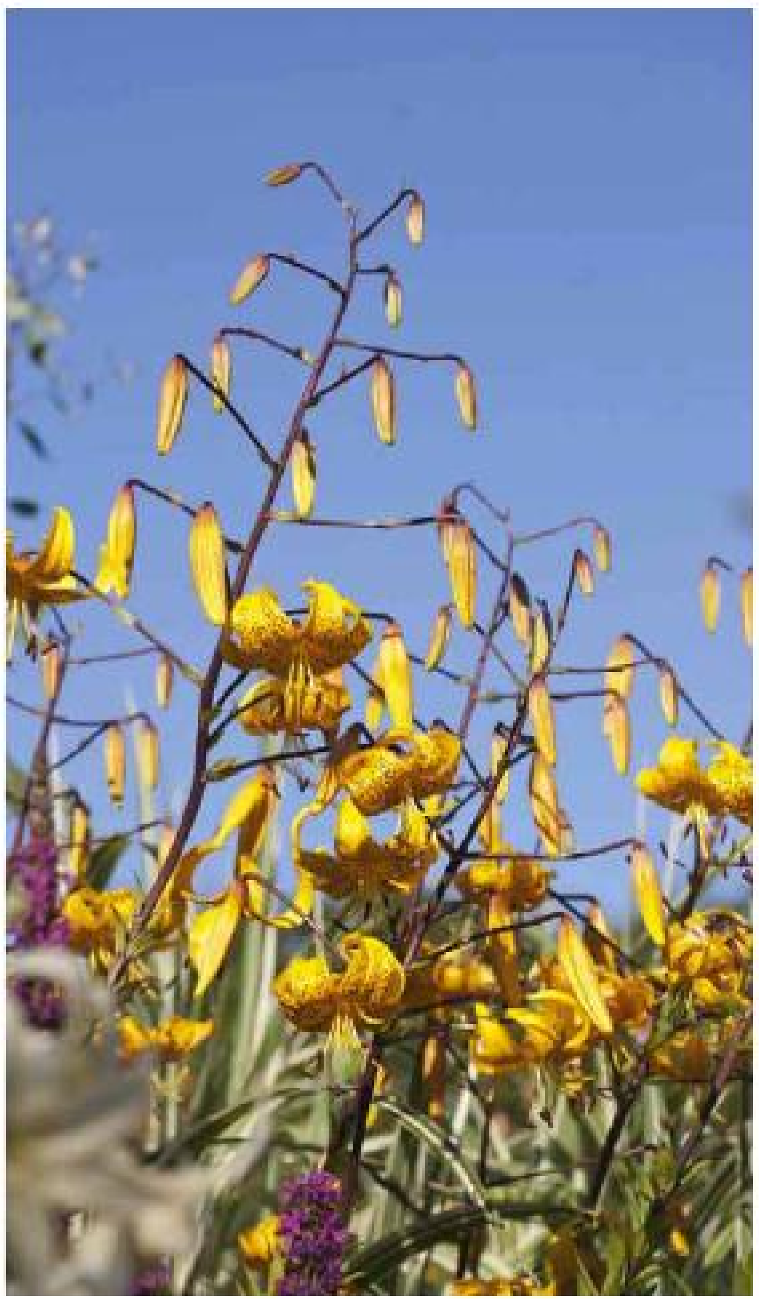
*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.
†Hardiness ratings given where available.

Helipterum 'Pierrot'

A delicate everlasting daisy, ideal for cutting and drying but also worthwhile in the garden, used either in pots or integrated among other border ingredients. The flowers have translucent white, crisp, papery petals in multiple rows forming ragged discs 2cm across, each offset by a charming yellow-rimmed black eye. These are held on long, stiff, upright stems dressed in short linear grey leaves. Cheerful during the day, the flowers shut into neat globes by night before opening again the next morning. Sown outside in hot climates, but in the UK they're best if sown under glass in March, pricked out into trays and planted out in May.

Height/Spread 40cm x 10cm.
Origins A native of Australia.
Conditions Full sun in well-drained soil.
Season June – August.

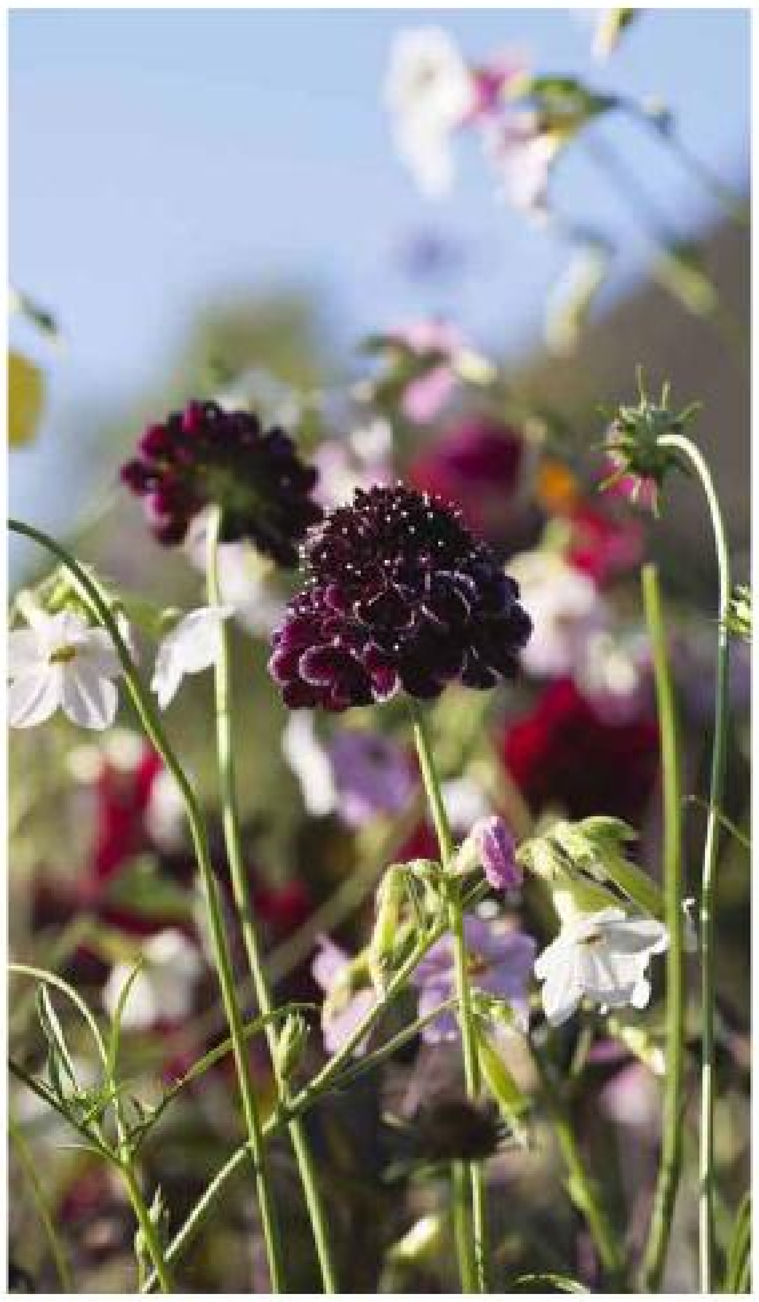




Lilium leichtlinii

A chic asiatic lily with charcoal brown shoots that emerge from the ground like prehistoric vegetation, before elongating into long, stiff, and robust, shiny black stems, clothed in dense whorls of thin glossy green leaves. Well-spaced and uprightly angular, dark-coloured side branches hold oval buds, which are chocolate-purple flushed green in colour. These open into large yellow dangling flowers. From the centre of each flower protrudes elongated and elegantly reflexed filaments carrying prominent cinnamon anthers floating around a central carpel.

Height/Spread 1.5m x 60cm.
Origins South Korea and Japan.
Conditions Prefers moist but free-draining, acid soil in sun or part shade.
Hardiness rating USDA 5b-11†.
Season July – August.



Scabiosa atropurpurea 'Ace of Spades'

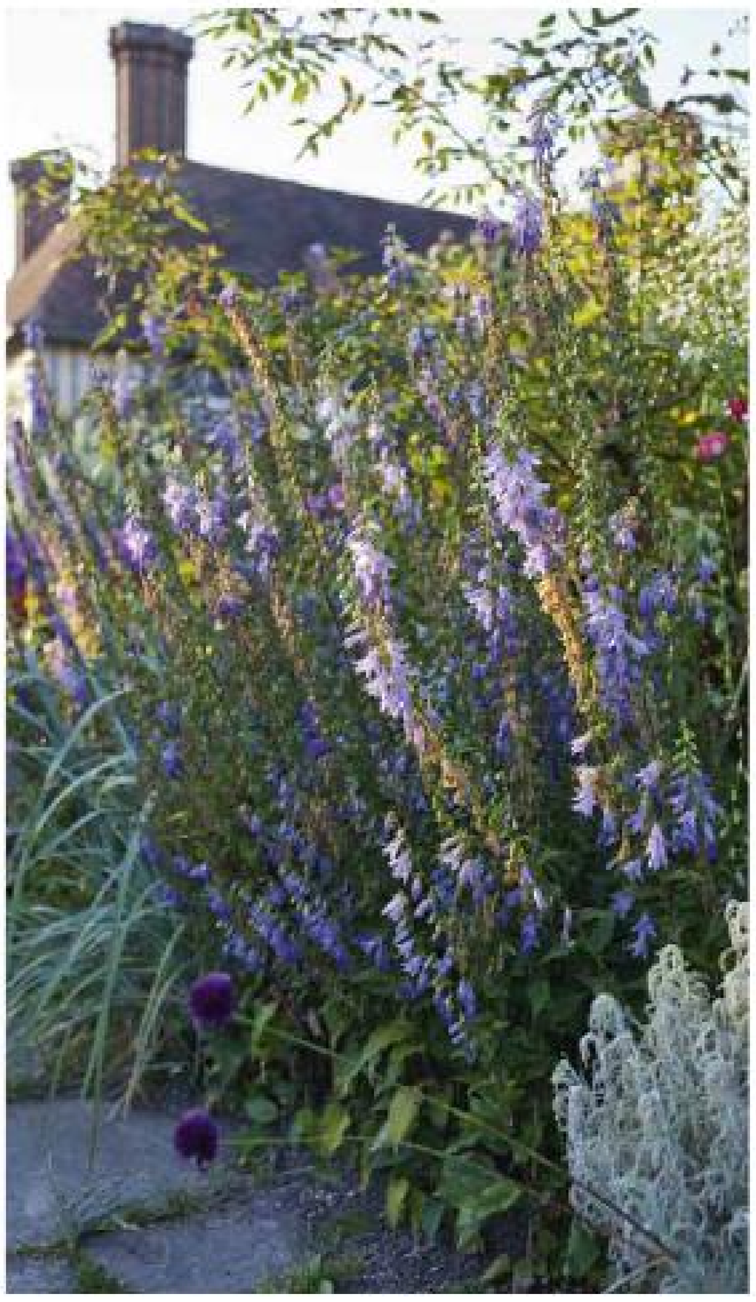
A charismatic, short-lived, willowy perennial with a multitude of upright, slender, pale-green stems decorated with tufts of finely cut upper leaves, gradually becoming more substantial lower down. Each stem terminates in sooty black, plump rounded flower buds clasped in loose green calyxes. These open into fat, fully double, pin cushions of deep velvety burgundy, speckled in flecks of white. Old plants tire quickly, so keep stock fresh from cuttings or by seed.

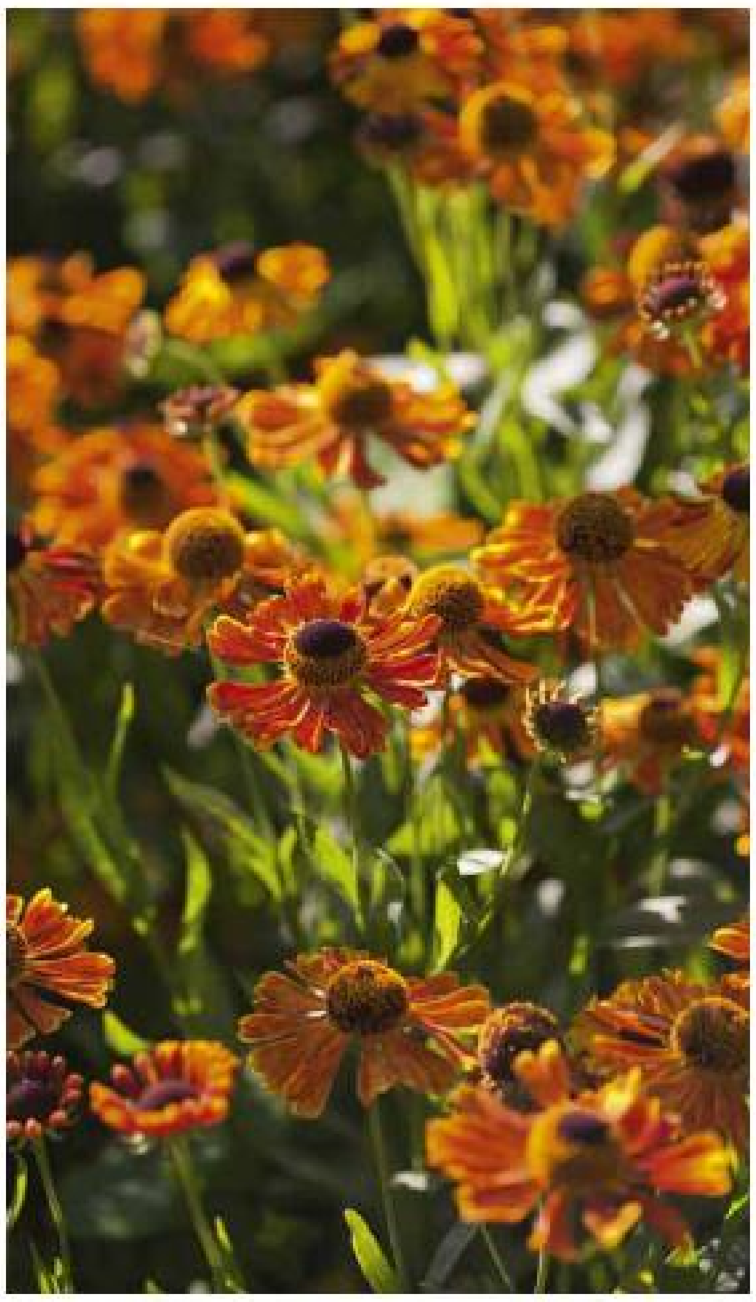
Height/Spread 90cm x 30cm.
Origins From the species *Scabiosa atropurpurea* which is wild in Southern Europe, North Africa and Turkey.
Conditions Full sun in well-drained soil.
Hardiness rating USDA 9a-11.
Season June – September.

Adenophora 'Amethyst'

A hardy perennial that spreads by underground runners. These colonies grow tired quickly, only flowering around the edges. But if it's treated as a biennial, sown in spring and grown on before planting out in the autumn, plants will flower prolifically over several weeks the following summer. These two-year-old plants are packed with long outward arching spikes of pendulous bell-shaped flowers, arranged symmetrically up each stem. Excellent in pots or bedded out to give spikes of campanula-like blooms.

Height/Spread 1m x 60cm.
Origins Cultivar of an east Asian species.
Conditions Full sun or semi-shade in most soils.
Hardiness rating USDA 3a-8b.
Season June – August.





Helenium 'Sahin's Early Flowerer'

This is the best of all sneezeworts, often flowering non-stop from early July to November. Large chunky flowers comprised of double rows of bright lobed petals, streaked and mottled in yellow, radiating out from a prominent brown central boss. Forms fat and vigorous clumps, which are best if regularly split and replanted into composted ground. Forms tufts of basal leaves in the autumn, susceptible to being overcrowded. Staking can be necessary.

Height/Spread 1.3m x 60cm. AGM.
Origins Selected by Kees Sahin and put into cultivation by Bob Brown.
Conditions Full sun in rich, moist soil although will tolerate drier conditions.
Hardiness rating RHS H4, USDA 3a-8b.
Season July – November.

Places to visit

Fergus shares some of his favourite places to see plants at their best.

RHS Trial Grounds Wisley
A visit to the trials at RHS Garden Wisley in Surrey is always an interesting experience. This is one of the best places to go to see new plants growing next to old cultivars where one can be compared to the other – this sort of arrangement appeals to the stamp collector in me. Assessing plants side by side and trying to work out what is best is essential training for any gardener. There is currently a very interesting *Phlox paniculata* trial in its third and final year which should be looking marvellous in July. Don't just visit once but several times and look at other trials as well. RHS Garden Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB. The gardens are open every day except Christmas Day. www.rhs.org.uk

RHS Garden Wisley, Surrey.

MARIANNE MAJERUS DESIGN: PIET OUDOLF

Ammi majus

A tall and classy annual that floats about in borders, adding a soft ethereal quality to combinations. Has large compound, lacy umbels of chalky white flowers, which spill out from well-branched, upright plants with unobtrusive green leaves in billowing froths of white. Plants when sown in September – October, overwintered under glass, and then planted out in the spring, reach dramatic heights. Spring sowing in a greenhouse results in shorter specimens, and those direct or self-sown outside are shorter still. All are charming. Looked amazing when inter-planted with dill at Dixter last year.

Height/Spread 2.2m x 1m.
Origins Southern Europe, North Africa.
Conditions Full sun in any garden soil.
Hardiness rating RHS H4.
Season July – September.

Tetrapanax papyrifer

One of the most dramatic foliage plants. Huge, deeply lobed, green palmate leaves up to 2m across, neatly dissected with cream veins, are held on arching stem, like vast fans. The undersides of each leaf, the leaf stalks, and all the active growing shoots are covered in a woolly indumentum. Established plants flower in late summer with ivy-like clusters of creamy flowers emerging from the down-covered buds. Small black berries containing seeds follow. Spreads extensively from underground roots and different clones exist, varying in leaf size and shape, colour, habit and hardiness.

Height/Spread 3m x 2m. AGM.
Origins Endemic to Taiwan.
Conditions Sun or part-shade in good soil.
Hardiness rating USDA 6a-10b.
Season June – November.

Tagetes patula 'Dixter Strain'

Christopher Lloyd worked this French marigold 'up' over the years by selecting seeds from the tallest plants, resulting in a most elegant marigold. Gently fluted, branching stems carry dozens of single flowers with dark green, finely cut pinnate leaves providing the backdrop. The flowers are 3.5cm wide and glow in rich terracotta red with each petal edged with a thin mustard-yellow line. A small yet prominent yellow boss decorates the centre. Flowering is long and plants warrant support from a cane. Save your own seed but keep mother plants away from other marigolds.

Height/Spread 1.2m x 60cm.
Origins Species originally from Mexico, selected from 'Cinnabar'.
Conditions Full sun in most soils.
Season June – November.

Dan Pearson's garden at the Tokachi Millennium Forest, Hokkaido, Japan
I fully understand that Japan is a long way to go but it does have an extraordinary flora, an incredible culture and the most spiritual gardens. On top of all this, Dan Pearson has skilfully and sensitively created a multilayered masterpiece within the landscape of the Millennium Forest, blending an interesting community of plants together. You can find out more about this Society of Garden Designers Grand Award-winning landscape at www.tmf.jp

June Blake's gardens in Co Wicklow, Ireland
June has a voracious appetite for plants but also a keen design sense and has created an unusual space adjoining one side of her Victorian farmhouse. I've always enjoyed my visits and have always come away absolutely filled with inspiration. Open Wednesday – Sunday, April – October, 11am–5.30pm. Tinode, Blessington, Co Wicklow, Ireland. Tel +353 87 277 0399, www.juneblake.ie

June Blake's garden, Co Wicklow, Ireland.

HANNEKE REIJBROEK/GAPPHOTOS. DESIGN: JUNE BLAKE

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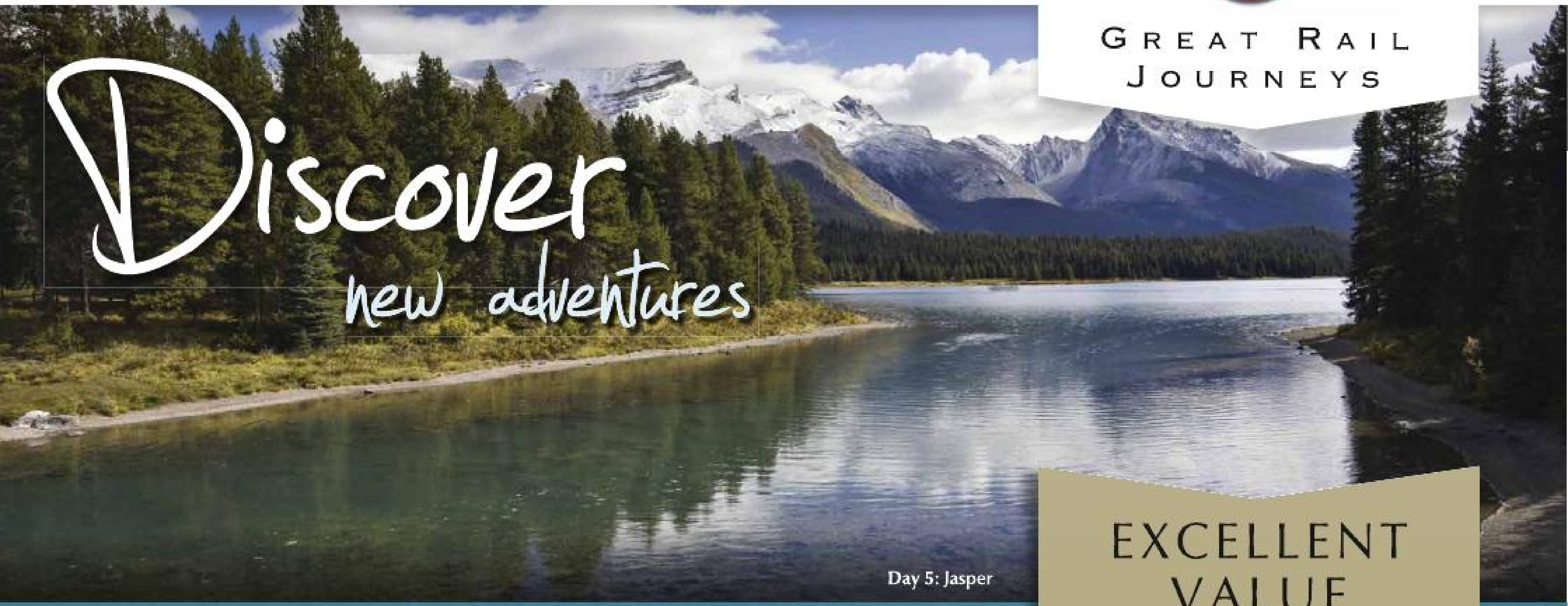
JOURNEYS



Day 5: Jasper

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Days 4-5: The Rockies and Jasper. Sunrise over the Rockies and on to Jasper for two nights, with Day 5 free for exploring the National Park.

Days 6-8: Rugged plains. Visit to Maligne Lake and Canyon in Jasper National Park before we rejoin *The Canadian* to continue along the Athabasca River Valley to Saskatoon and Winnipeg, then across the Canadian Shield to Toronto.

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Day 10: Niagara Falls. Take an excursion by coach to the incredible Niagara Falls with free time to marvel at the spectacle or perhaps take a cruise on the *Maid of the Mist.* Continue to Niagara-on-the-Lake with free time to explore.

Days 11-12: To Québec. *VIA Rail's Corridor* service to Montreal, changing trains for Québec for two nights. Guided sightseeing tour and free time to soak up the French atmosphere of the city.

Day 13: Québec to Nova Scotia. Free time to explore before our evening departure for Nova Scotia on board the *Ocean* train.

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Glory days

Even with colour blazing across your garden, there are still tasks that must be carried out to keep everything under control

WORDS **LIA LEENDERTZ** ILLUSTRATION **PETRA BÖRNER**

Growing lilies

July is the time of saturated colour, and lilies epitomise these heady days. I gave them up a few years ago, unable to battle the devastation wreaked by the beautiful but deadly lily beetle. I still miss them, but instead I have turned my attention to day lilies. Not the same thing perhaps, but a jolt of utterly dependable colour, and far less troublesome. Whichever lily is providing the saturated colour in your garden you have a job to do every few days. With real lilies you must scour the under-foliage for beetle larvae, and squish between your fingers. Day lilies will look sprightlier if you pull the fading heads off the clumps at a similar interval. I know which job I prefer.

Harvesting and sowing

It is easy to let your crops gallop away from you, these bounteous days. Nobody wants a gift of giant courgettes in July – I have tested this – but they just might want a gift of tiny little sweet ones, each a few centimetres long. The trick is to continually check your crops and take them young, and this means almost daily trips to the vegetable patch. Also, don't give up too soon on sowing. I visited a school garden last year where the young gardeners sowed peas on the last day of the summer term (end of July) to harvest on the first of the autumn term (early September), and the same would work for courgettes and dwarf French beans.

Herbaceous cuttings

I have a single plant of *Penstemon* 'Andenken an Friedrich Hahn' more commonly known as 'Garnet'. It is a lovely glowing ruby thing and one isn't enough. This is the easy time to take cuttings to overwinter and plant out for garnet-coloured abundance next year. Earlier cuttings would have needed the heated propagator, which is generally full in spring. Now it is warm enough for them to manage without. Search out non-flowering shoots and take cuttings 10-15cm long, stripping the lower leaves and pushing them into seed and cutting compost. Keep sheltered, moist and out of full sun. □

Things to do

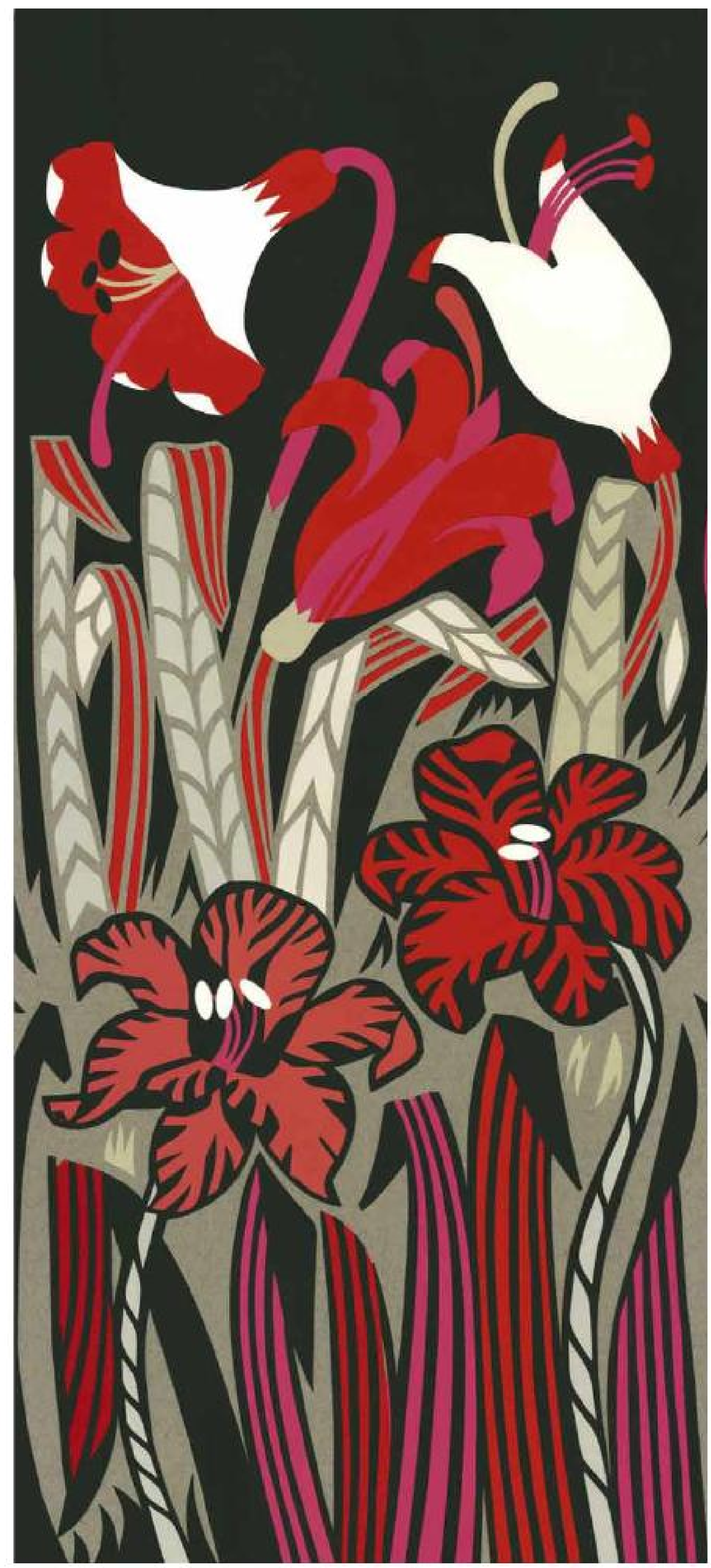
Move houseplants outside for the summer and give them a good shower with the watering can rose to get rid of dust.

Damp down the greenhouse floor on hot days, to cool it and raise humidity.

Feed bedding plants with high-potash tomato feed or comfrey tea to keep flowers coming all summer.

Keep your pond topped up with water in hot, dry weather.

Plant autumn-flowering bulbs such as nerines and autumn crocuses.



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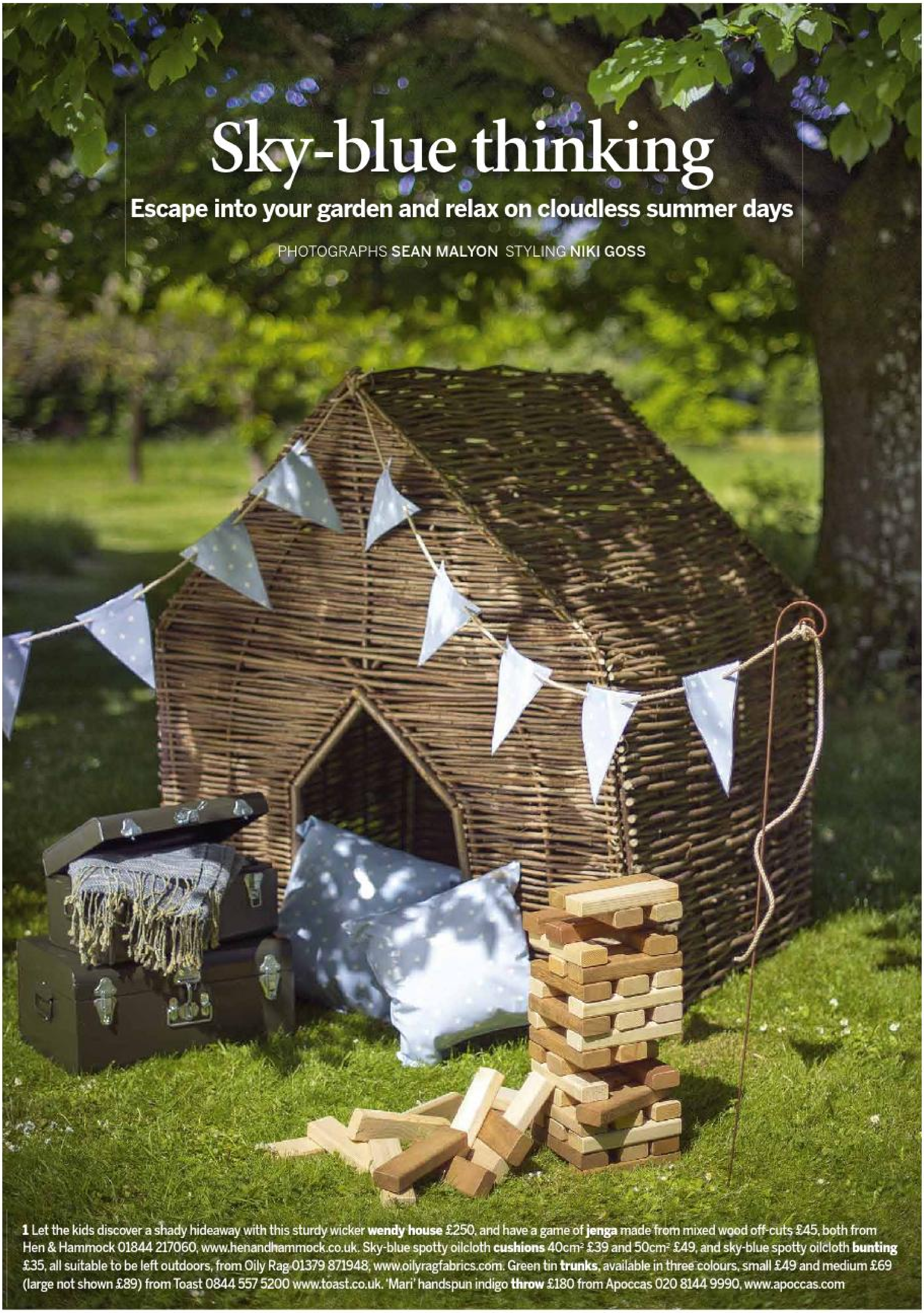
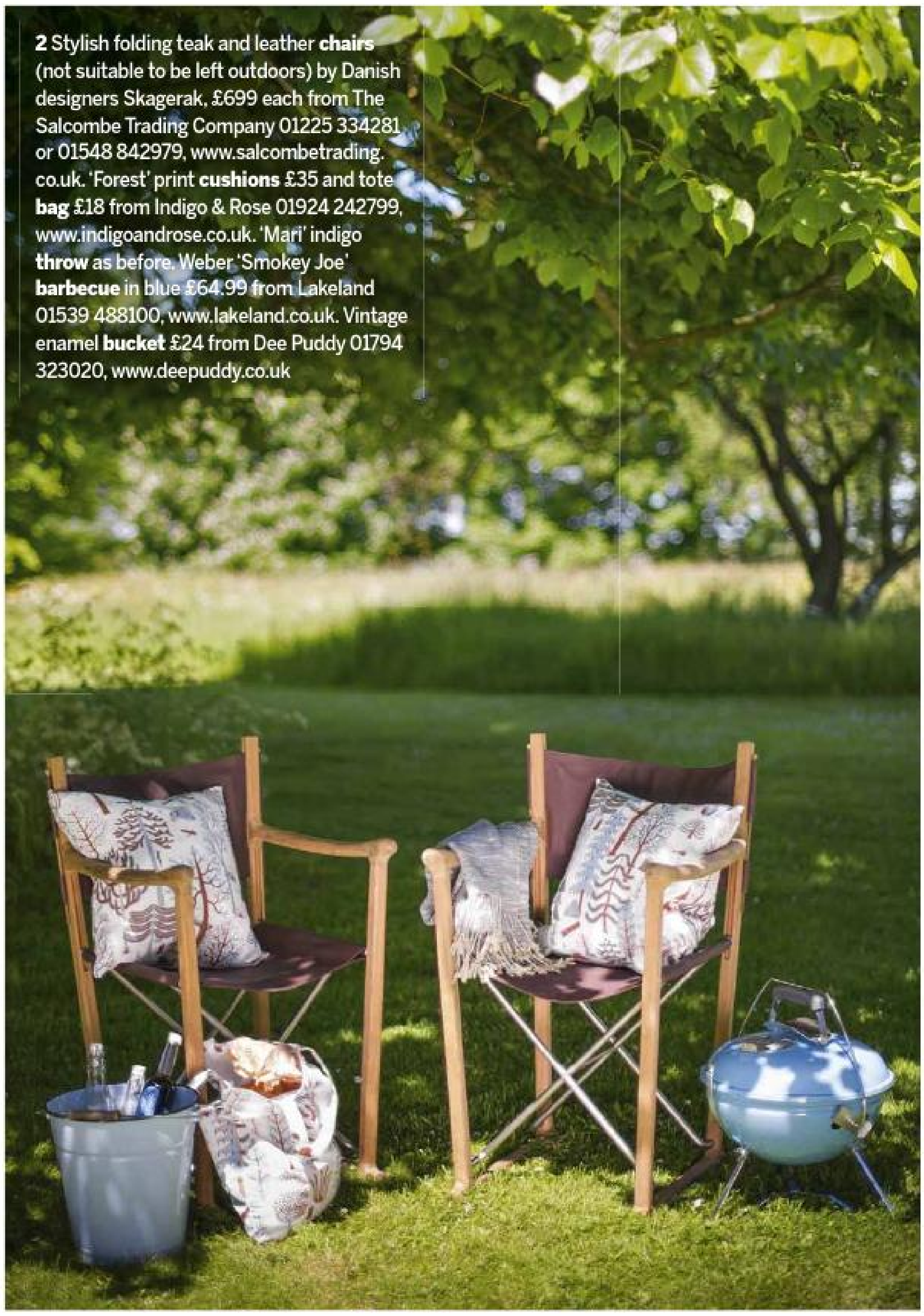
Sky-blue thinking

Escape into your garden and relax on cloudless summer days

PHOTOGRAPHS **SEAN MALYON** STYLING **NIKI GOSS**



1 Let the kids discover a shady hideaway with this sturdy wicker **wendy house** £250, and have a game of **jenga** made from mixed wood off-cuts £45, both from Hen & Hammock 01844 217060, www.henandhammock.co.uk. Sky-blue spotty oilcloth **cushions** 40cm² £39 and 50cm² £49, and sky-blue spotty oilcloth **bunting** £35, all suitable to be left outdoors, from Oily Rag 01379 871948, www.oilyragfabrics.com. Green tin **trunks**, available in three colours, small £49 and medium £69 (large not shown £89) from Toast 0844 557 5200 www.toast.co.uk. 'Mari' handspun indigo **throw** £180 from Apoccas 020 8144 9990, www.apoccas.com



2 Stylish folding teak and leather **chairs** (not suitable to be left outdoors) by Danish designers Skagerak, £699 each from The Salcombe Trading Company 01225 334281 or 01548 842979, www.salcombetrading.co.uk. 'Forest' print **cushions** £35 and tote **bag** £18 from Indigo & Rose 01924 242799, www.indigoandrose.co.uk. 'Mari' indigo **throw** as before. Weber 'Smokey Joe' **barbecue** in blue £64.99 from Lakeland 01539 488100, www.lakeland.co.uk. Vintage enamel **bucket** £24 from Dee Puddy 01794 323020, www.deepuddy.co.uk

5

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6

3

4

3 Pastel blue 'R1' digital **radio** £179.99, with ten-hour, rechargeable battery pack £49.99 from Ruark Audio 01702 601410, www.ruarkaudio.com for stockists. Glass **tumbler** £24.95 for a set of six in rainbow colours from Sarah Raven 0845 092 0283, www.sarahraven.com

4 Canvas 'Bosun's' **bag** with four exterior pockets and a strong rope handle, ideal for carrying tools, £26 from The Dartmouth Canvas Factory 01803 832186, www.canvas-factory.co.uk. 1.7-litre indoor **watering can** and gauntlet **gloves** both £14.95, 'Allium Bloom' enamel **mug** £6.95 and drinks **flask** £16.95, all by Sophie Conran for Burgon & Ball 0114 233 8262, www.burgonandball.com. Other items stylist's own.

5 Keep the flies off with this metal mesh **food cover** £17.50 from Sarah Raven (see no. 3). Leather **fly swat** £8.95 from Dee Puddy (see no. 2).

6 Luxurious Savon de Marseille **soaps** in seaweed, ginger and marine £11.50 for a box of three from Cox & Cox 0844 858 0744, www.coxandcox.co.uk. Washing up **whisk** £6.95 from Sarah Raven (see No. 3).

Shot on location at Tormarton Court, South Gloucestershire, with kind permission.

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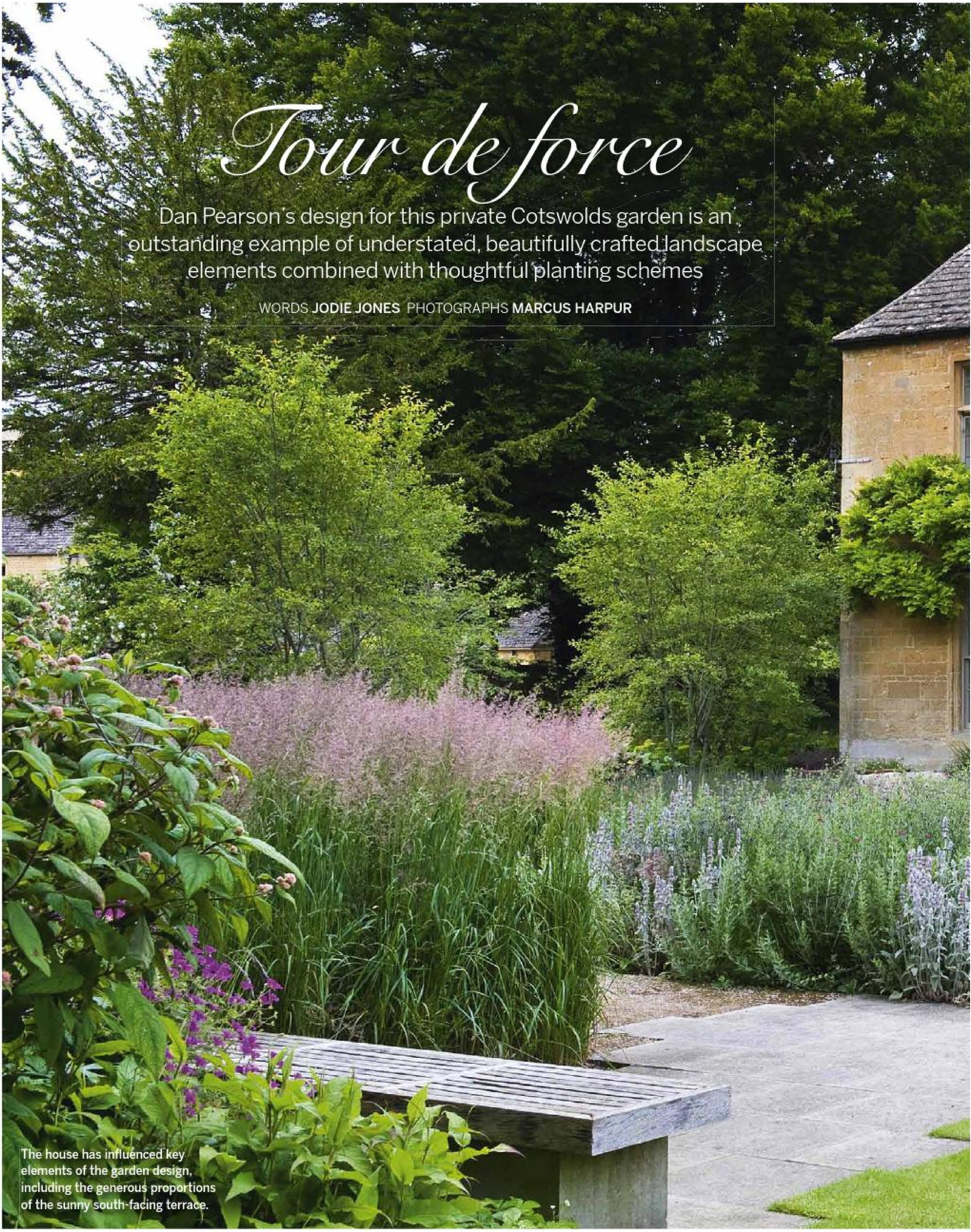
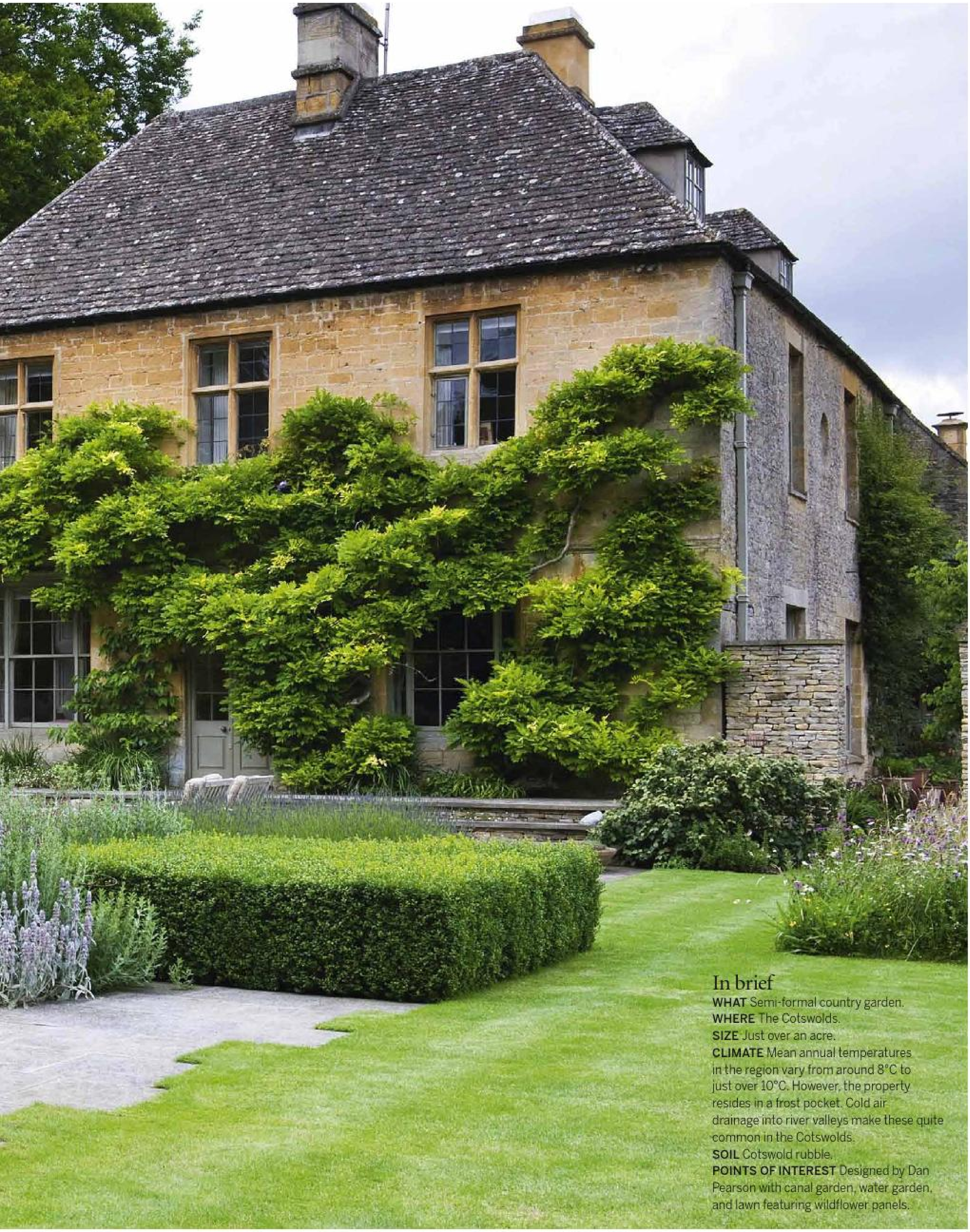


Tour de force

Dan Pearson's design for this private Cotswolds garden is an outstanding example of understated, beautifully crafted landscape elements combined with thoughtful planting schemes

WORDS **JODIE JONES** PHOTOGRAPHS **MARCUS HARPUR**

The house has influenced key elements of the garden design, including the generous proportions of the sunny south-facing terrace.



In brief

WHAT Semi-formal country garden.
WHERE The Cotswolds.
SIZE Just over an acre.
CLIMATE Mean annual temperatures in the region vary from around 8°C to just over 10°C. However, the property resides in a frost pocket. Cold air drainage into river valleys make these quite common in the Cotswolds.
SOIL Cotswold rubble.
POINTS OF INTEREST Designed by Dan Pearson with canal garden, water garden, and lawn featuring wildflower panels.

Ten years ago, Dan Pearson was invited to the Cotswolds to look at a garden. The one-acre site included lawns and a terrace, a canal enclosed by high walls and a water garden fed by the river that borders the property. "It was all very handmade," Dan says, choosing his words carefully. "There were some nice ideas, but they were poorly executed. Much needed to be done."

The new owners were just completing an extensive renovation of the inside of the property, and had invited Dan to fine-tune the border planting. Instead they found their home marooned in a sea of mud for 18 months while Dan's vision of their garden was implemented. "They were the most charming clients you could imagine," says Dan. "It must have been horrendous but they were always so positive about what we were doing." Today it is clear their faith has been amply rewarded.

With its honey-coloured dry stone walls, clipped box and billowing borders in shades of lavender and blue, this garden has a timeless quality that marks it out as a true classic. The house is a handsome presence at the heart of the design and every part of the garden relates to its proportions, from the formal squares of clipped box that flank the front door, to the sunny southern terrace and then the cloister-like simplicity of the canal garden. Even the charmingly naturalistic water garden complements the irregular walls and low roof line of the oldest part of the house. Every element is not only brilliantly designed, but also perfectly executed and immaculately maintained.

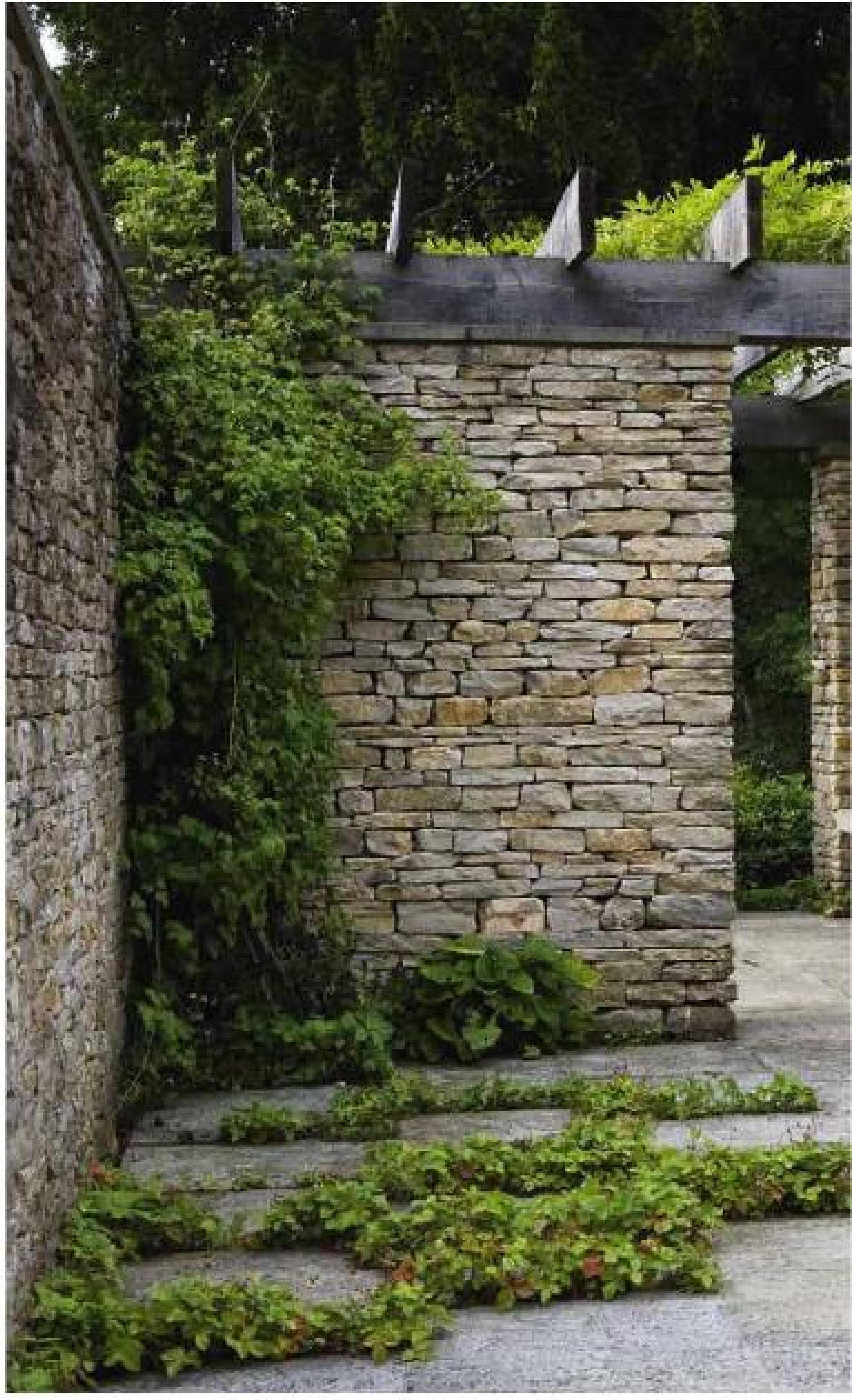
"I think that helps to explain why the garden has succeeded so well," says Dan. "You need that sense of partnership if it is really going to work. We have been fortunate to find the most tremendous gardeners to take care of it – Jacky Mills and Ian Mannall. They are the silent stars of the show."

The standard of maintenance is certainly exceptional, especially when you learn that the couple spend only one or two days a week in the garden. "There is a lot to do," says Jacky. "But after so many years we have a pretty good feel for the rhythm of the garden. And it helps that all the planting is so well considered."

Dan is renowned for his naturalistic and sensitive use of plants and after so many years' association with this garden he has fine-tuned the borders to an exquisite pitch. "I have been able to keep a dialogue with the garden, growing with it."

The wildflower panels in the lawn took several years to settle in, but now are like fine tapestries laid out on the grass. From the crocus and fritillaries of early spring to the vetches and knapweed of summer, the effect is charming. And between the wildflowers, a formal swimming pool lined with tiles the

Continued on page 36 ▷



Design elements

The oak benches, raised vegetable beds and arrow-slit window frames were all made by Peter Siggs, who operates primarily in the East Sussex area. 01825 762 714.

The easy chairs and low table on the terrace came from Gloster. A Kingston deep seating armchair costs £949 including cushions. 01454 631 950, www.gloster.com

The swimming pool has an ingenious retracting cover, strong enough to walk on. It was produced by Ocea and prices start from around £10,000. 01865 604 882, www.ocea.be

Dan called in Chelsea medal-winning company Swatton Landscape to turn his designs into reality. 01243 605 255, www.swattonlandscape.com

Top left The swimming pool affords swimmers an eye-level view of the rich planting scheme.

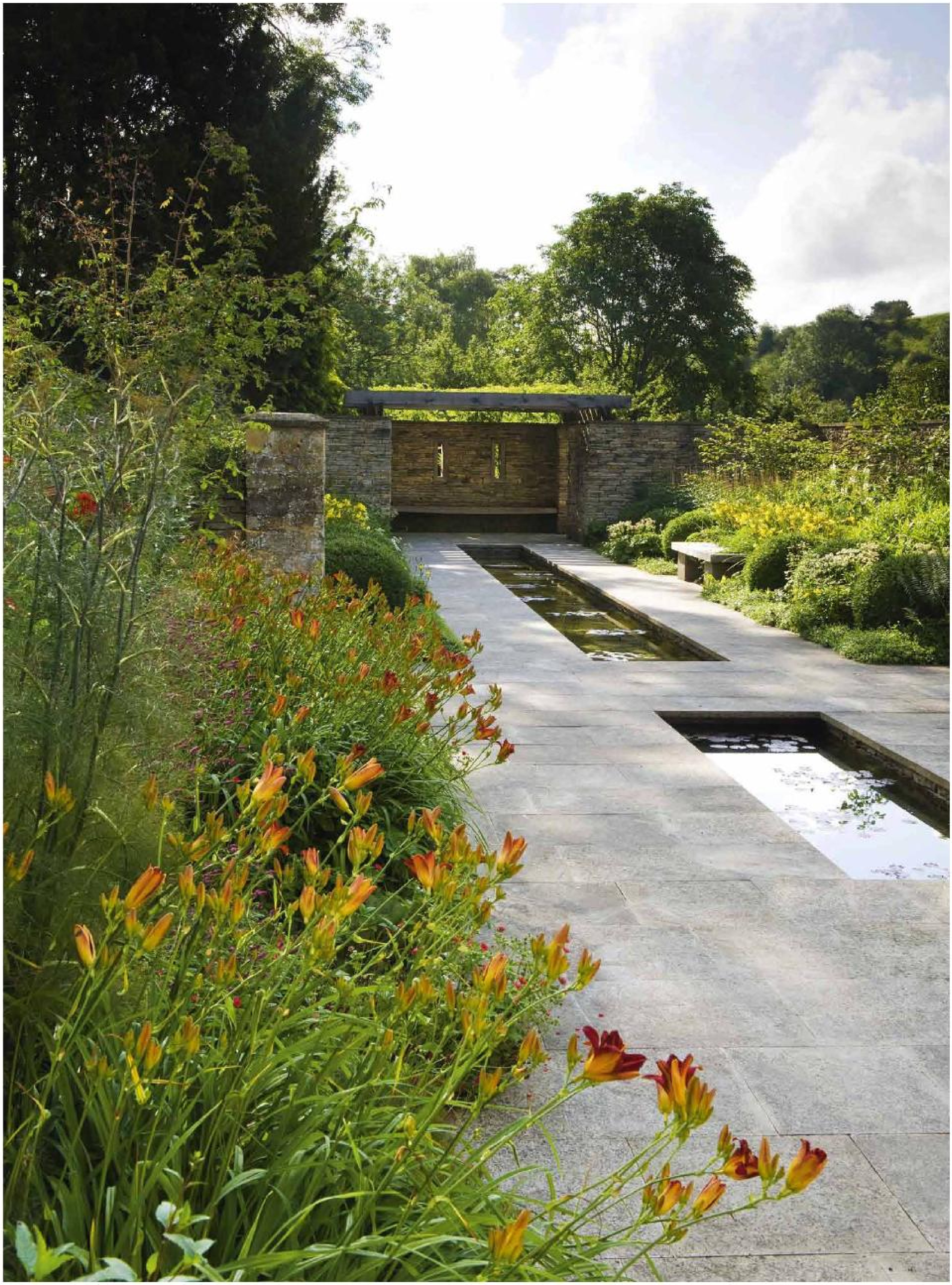
Top right A view back from the water garden to the log store next to the main house.

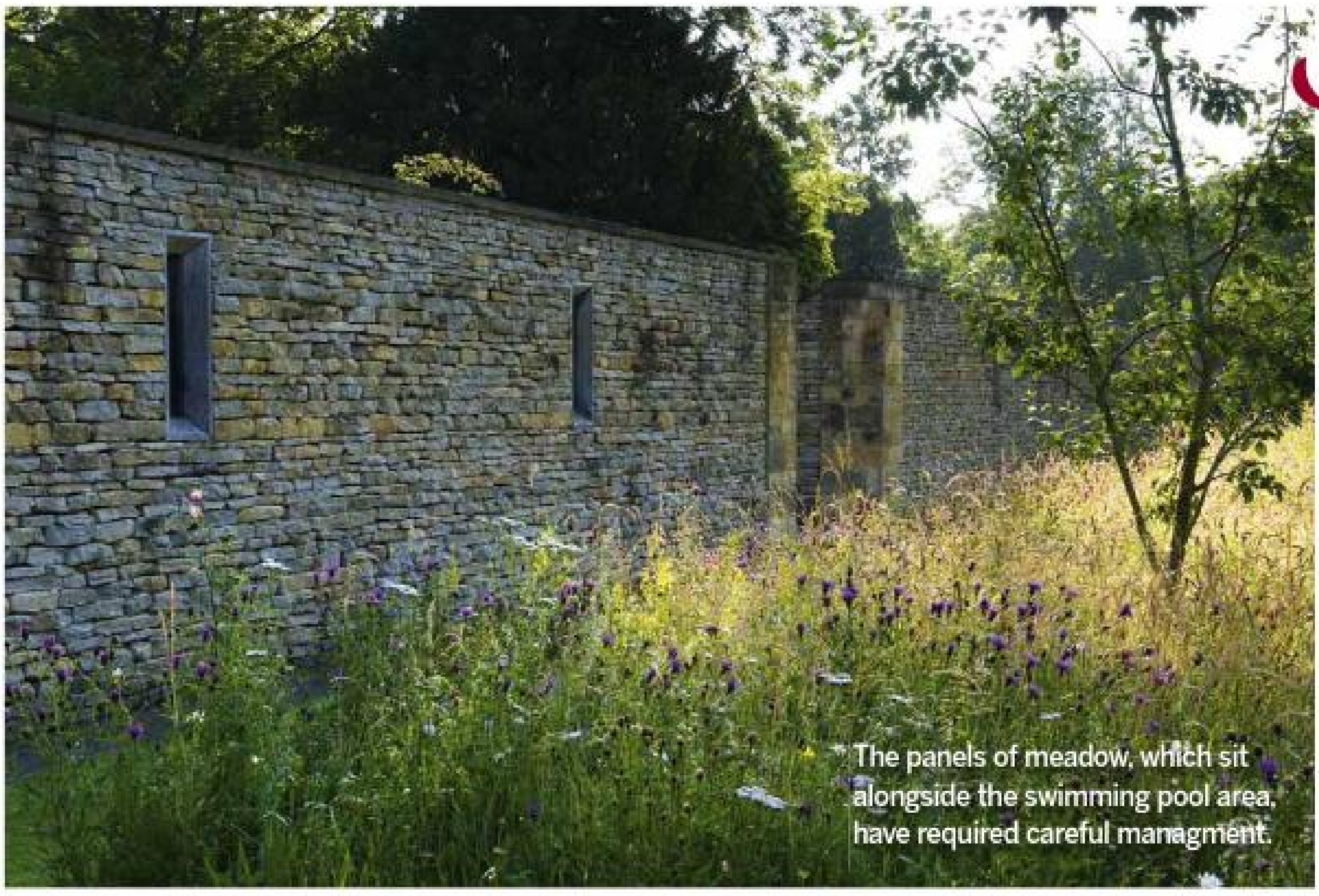
Bottom left The stone and oak pergola at the far end of the canal provides further seating and a striking focal point.

Bottom right Seating in front of the house is set next to a feathery screen of *Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster'.

The colour scheme within the long border flanking the canal modulates from the zingy yellow of *Hemerocallis citrina* to the hot red of *H.* 'Stafford'.

Opposite The canal garden, which sits at the back of the house, is reminiscent of a *hortus conclusus*.





The panels of meadow, which sit alongside the swimming pool area, have required careful managment.

▷ colour of the stone roof provides swimmers with a low view through beds of *Perovskia* 'Blue Spire' and *Veronicastrum virginicum* 'Lavendelturm' to a picturesque church tower beyond the garden wall.

The sense of place in this village garden is strong wherever you go. Even the canal terrace provides carefully framed views through arrow-slit windows framed in green oak back to the main lawn.

From end to end, the planting palette in the canal-side beds fades from the intense reds of *Helenium* 'Rubinzwerg' close by the house, through lemon yellow *Hemerocallis citrina* to the far end, where box balls sit in an understated but complex carpet of *Vinca minor* f. *alba* and *Ranunculus ficaria* 'Brazen Hussy' interspersed with *Astrantia major* subsp. *involucrata* 'Shaggy'.

From here, the riven stone path turns a corner and leads into the most informal area of the garden. There is a small vegetable garden with raised beds just big enough to provide a succession of treats – a log store and a pond with sheets of water lilies.

This, the owners confess, is their favourite part of the garden. This is where they like to retreat to contemplate a garden that is now handmade in the most finely crafted sense of the word. ◻

USEFUL INFORMATION

Dan Pearson Studio, The Nursery, The Chandlery, 50 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7QY. **Tel** 020 7928 3800. **Website** www.danpearsonstudio.com Garden Museum exhibition: 'Green Fuse: The Work of Dan Pearson', until 20 October. Garden Museum, London SE1. **Tel** 020 7401 8865. **Website** www.gardenmuseum.org. Go to page 95 to find out more.

Managing a meadow

"The panels of wildflowers in the main lawn have required considered attention," says Dan. "The clients were concerned for a year or two but I kept urging them to keep their nerve. Meadows are absolutely fascinating things, but you need to be patient for at least five years and develop a management regime that suits the site."

The key to success in this garden has lain in the mowing regime. Gardeners Jacky and Ian, in consultation with Dan, had to find a balance between the need to let the meadow flowers mature and set seed, and the clients' wish to keep their lawn looking properly tended.

After several years' trial and error they now cut down the meadow in late July, and then keep running over it with the mower on its highest setting for the rest of the year. This prevents the vetches that thrive on this chalky soil from forming unsightly hummocks, but still allows the mix to set seed and enrich itself from year to year.

9 of Dan Pearson's plants for summer

1 *Echinops ritro*
Globe thistles are popular with bees and butterflies. This is a good short cultivar that doesn't need staking. AGM*. RHS H4, USDA 3a-9b†.

2 *Calamagrostis* x *acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster'
Hugely popular with proponents of the new perennial style of planting, this is massed in rectangular beds to great effect. RHS H4, USDA 5a-9b.

3 *Hydrangea arborescens* 'Annabelle'
A hardy plant that copes well with this cold site. Jacky cuts it down right to the ground in spring, resulting in lush and healthy growth. AGM. RHS H4, USDA 3a-9b.

4 *Hemerocallis* 'Stafford'
The scarlet day lily produces masses of flowers throughout the month of July. "It is my favourite red variety, tried and tested and not yet improved upon in my opinion," says Dan. AGM. RHS H4, USDA 3a-9b.

5 *Ligularia* 'The Rocket'
On the rich, damp banks of the pond, this sends its vivid yellow flower spikes soaring on striking black stems. AGM. RHS H4, USDA 4a-8b.

6 *Lilium pardalinum*
Can grow up to 2.5m tall and each stem is topped by a cluster of flowers. Dan finds it generally less favoured by the scarlet lily beetle. RHS H4, USDA 5a-9a.

7 *Crocosmia* 'Lucifer'
In August and September, this statuesque plant provides a shot of colour to counter any tendency towards a late-summer slump. AGM. USDA 6a-9b.

8 *Veronicastrum virginicum* 'Album'
An excellent choice for vertical impact. Can reach nearly 2m but is still able to support its own height. USDA 4a-7b.

9 *Sanguisorba tenuifolia* 'Purpurea'
Dan has used various sanguisorbas in the planting, including this and the shorter growing *Sanguisorba* 'Tanna'. USDA 4a-9b.

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*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.
†Hardiness ratings given where available.

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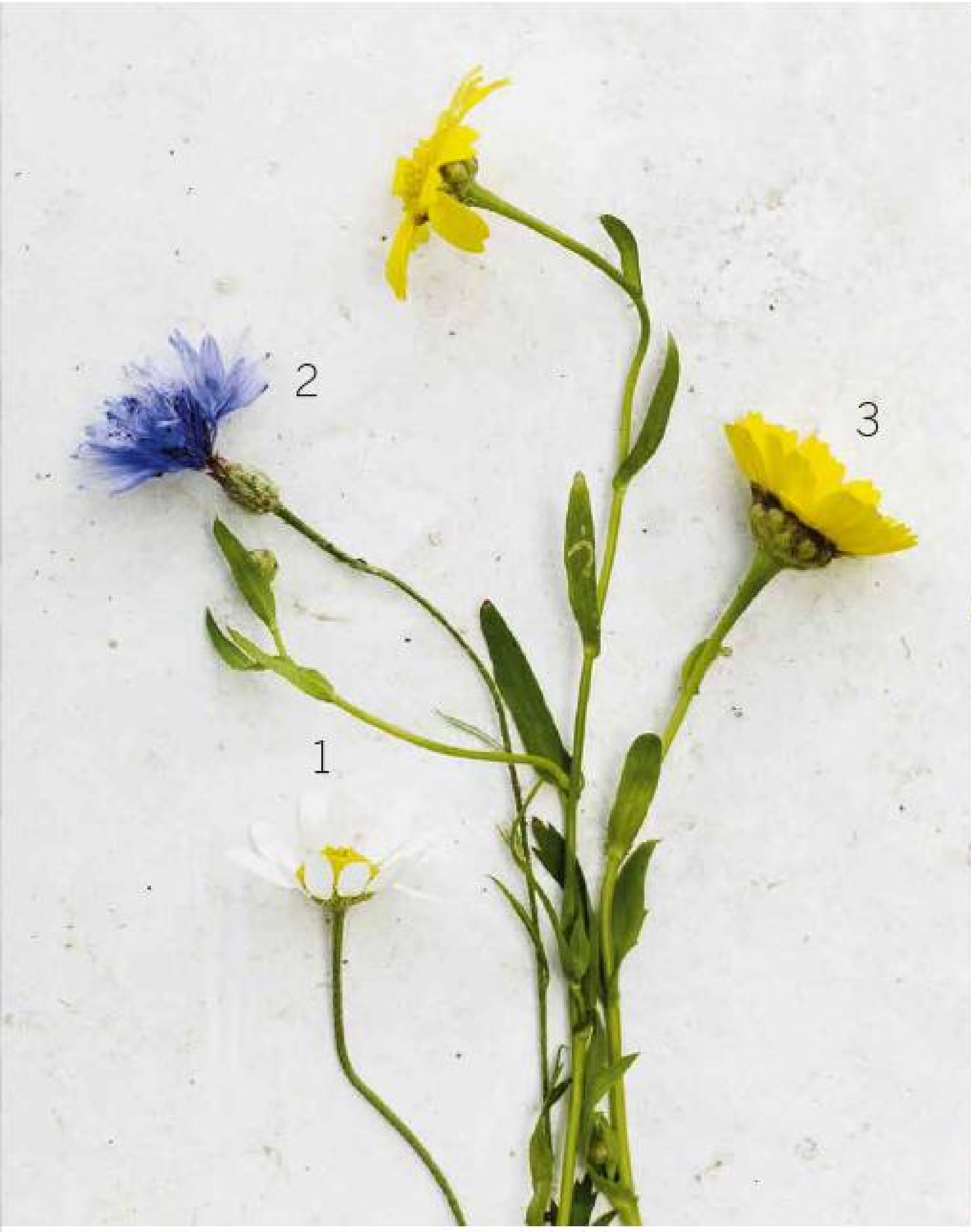
3 MARTIN HUGHES-JONES / ALAMY & TREVOR SIMS / GARDEN WORLD IMAGES

Pots for high summer

Julia Wylie continues her series on container planting, this issue focusing on pots that celebrate summer

WORDS **JULIA WYLIE** PHOTOGRAPHS **ANDREW MONTGOMERY**



Mini meadow

These annuals used to be abundant where soil was disturbed by ploughs – a requirement for germination and the reason why so many red poppies came up where soldiers were buried during the war, but they have become a rare sight since the 1960s as a result of changes in farming practices. These three colours contrast well with each other and the blue barrel, but for a longer display try one of the Pictorial Meadows Mixes (see Suppliers) seen at the Olympics last year – very attractive to pollinating insects because of the specially selected successional and long-flowering non-natives, such as *Ammi majus* and *Cosmos bipinnatus*.

How to achieve the look

Cultivation and care

Mix your seeds and sow them in early spring, preferably where they are to flower. Rake or cover the seed lightly with compost, firm down and protect from inquisitive wildlife with a cage of chicken wire or twiggy sticks of hazel, which will double as a support for them. Place in an open sunny site and water regularly. Turn the container occasionally, especially if placed against a wall, to avoid lopsidedness.

For more impatient gardeners and for those who would prefer a permanent pot, it is possible to buy plugs or pots of perennial wildflowers such as *Leucanthemum vulgare*, *Knautia arvensis*, *Daucus carota* and *Centaurea scabiosa*, but it will be difficult to create the same density by planting mature plants. They are unlikely to flower for as long in pots, so be vigilant with watering. Use loam-based free-draining compost (John Innes or similar) and mix in some moisture-retaining gel to increase their chances. Fertilising is not necessary.

Container

This barrel was used to store powdered paint, so was easy to clean. Barrels or drums are sold at reclamation yards or sometimes outside commercial sites, but often require a metalworker to cut them in half in order to re-use.

Plants

1 ***Anthemis arvensis***
Height 30cm.
Season June – September.
Amount 1 packet of seeds.

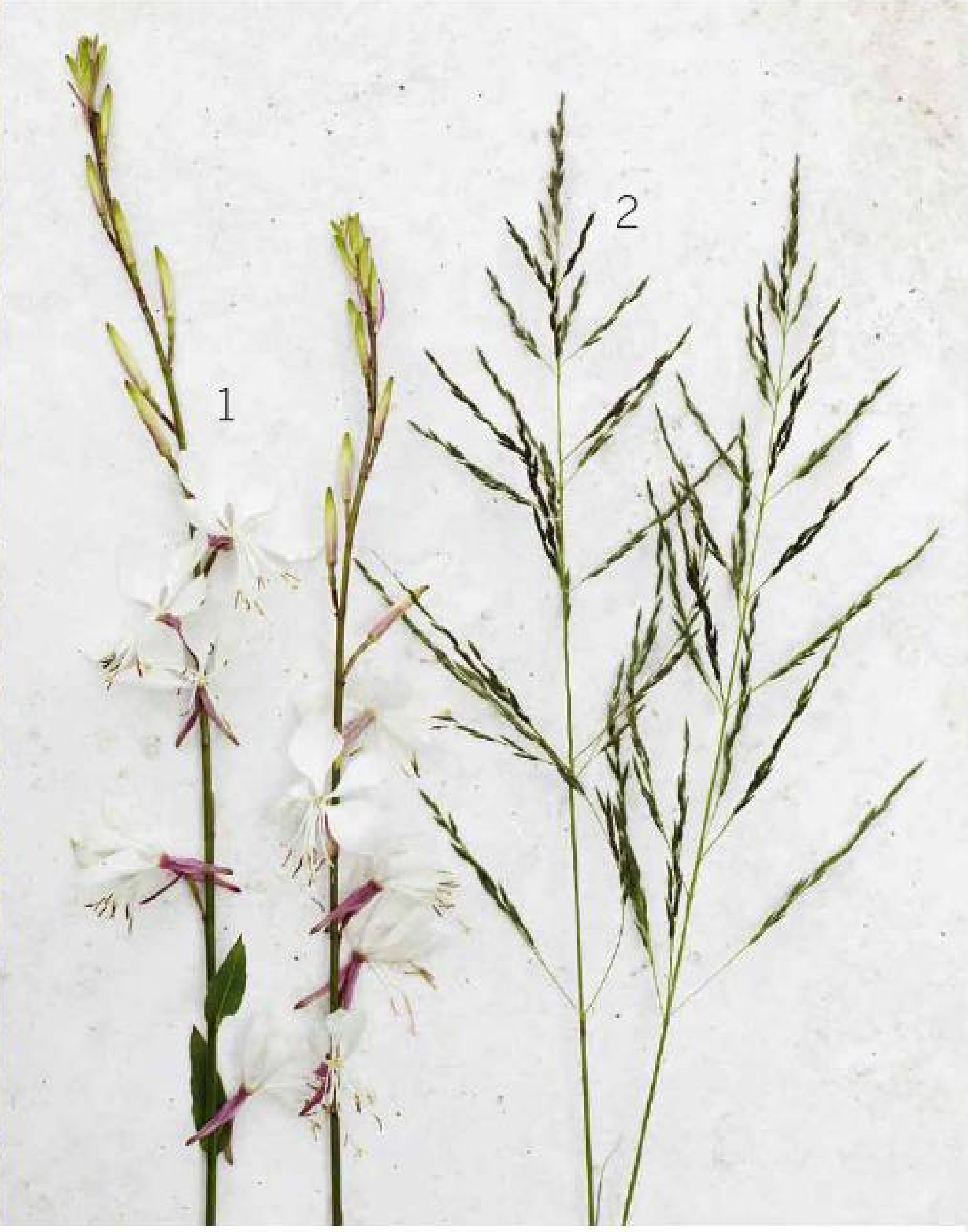
2 ***Centaurea cyanus***
Height 60-75cm. **Season** June – August. **Amount** 1 packet of seeds. RHS H4[†].

3 ***Glebionis segetum***
Height 45cm. **Season** June – September. **Amount** 1 packet of seeds. RHS H4, USDA 4a-11.

Suppliers

British Wildflower Plants Tel 01603 716615, www.wildflowers.co.uk
Landlife Wildflower Shop Tel 0151 737 1819, www.wildflower.org.uk
Pictorial Meadows Tel 0114 267 7635, www.pictorialmeadows.co.uk

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.
[†] Hardiness ratings given where available.



Endless summer

Texan native *Gaura lindheimeri* Karalee White (= 'Nugauwhite') provides an effortless display all summer long. Popular with pollinating insects and drought tolerant, it's light airy habit provides movement and combines well with other perennials. It requires very little deadheading, but still manages to out-flower most other perennials, lasting until the first frosts. Native to South Africa, *Eragrostis curvula* 'Totnes Burgundy' is also well suited to the dry conditions likely to be experienced in containers and its red-tinged leaves contrast perfectly with the pinkish red stems and buds of the *Gaura*. *Verbena bonariensis* would be an alternative partner, or an option for a colourful threesome.

How to achieve the look

Cultivation and care

Both *Gaura* and *Eragrostis* appreciate a sunny position and good drainage – mix in hydroleca pebbles or grit and use loam-based compost such as John Innes no 3. The *Gaura* is a short-lived borderline hardy perennial, so don't cut back its frosted stems until it starts into growth again in spring, to assist its survival chances for a second summer. The *Eragrostis* should also be cut down and divided, if more plants are required in spring, because it can't be propagated from seed as its seedlings will revert to the straight species.

Water regularly, because plants in pots dry out more quickly. To extend the season add spring and summer bulbs such as tulips and alliums in autumn.

Container

I found this corrugated iron trough discarded in my friend's field in Cornwall – it used to be used for feeding animals. If you are unable to source sheets of corrugated iron then a similar sized container could be made out of pieces of reclaimed wood or an old bath/water tank. Smaller containers would allow for easy handling and transportation into a greenhouse or protected porch for the winter.

Plants

Both these perennials make long-lasting cut flowers and are attractive to pollinators.

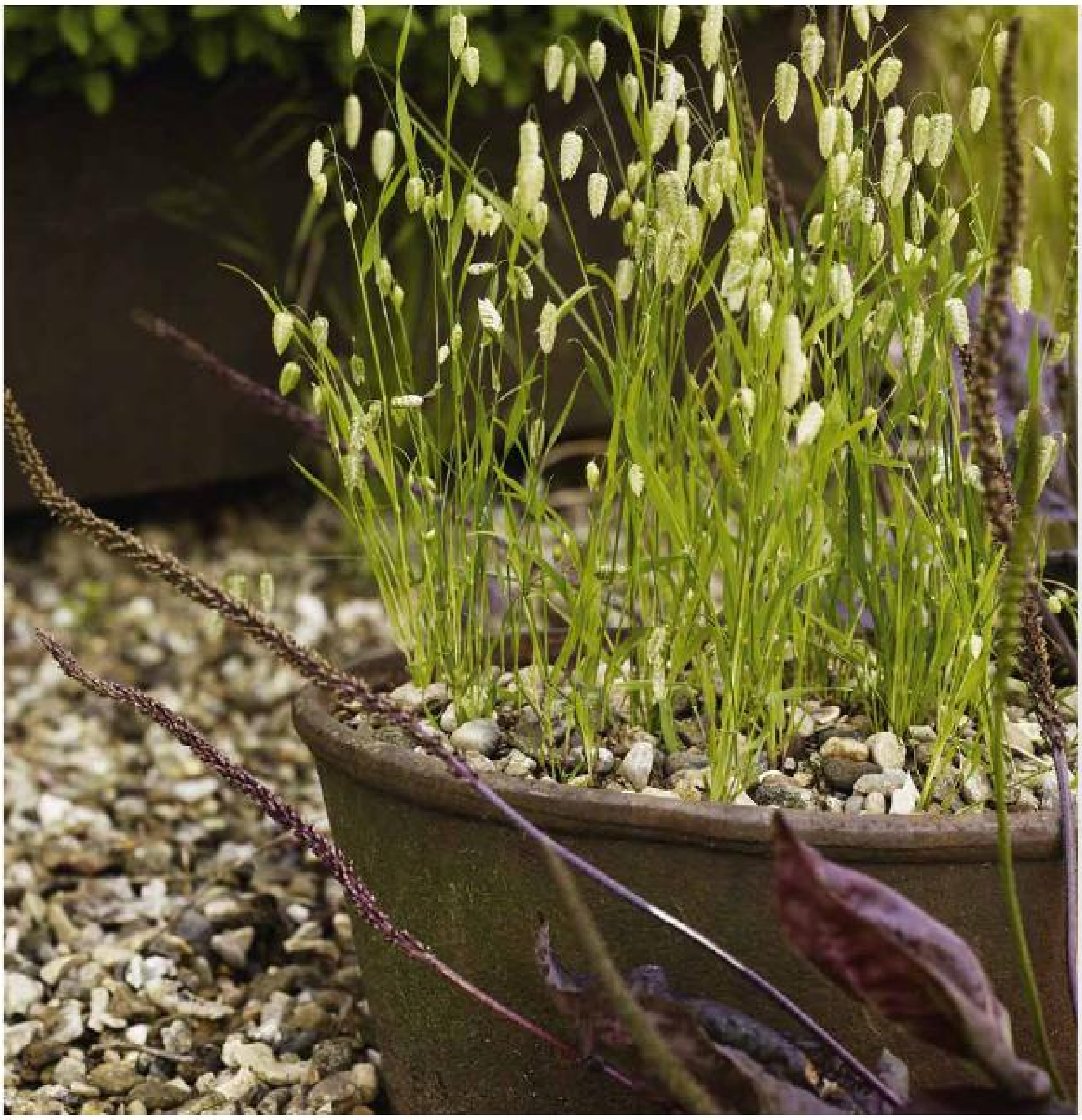
1 ***Gaura lindheimeri* Karalee White (= 'Nugauwhite')**
Height 60cm. **Season** May – November. **Amount** 25. USDA 5a-11.

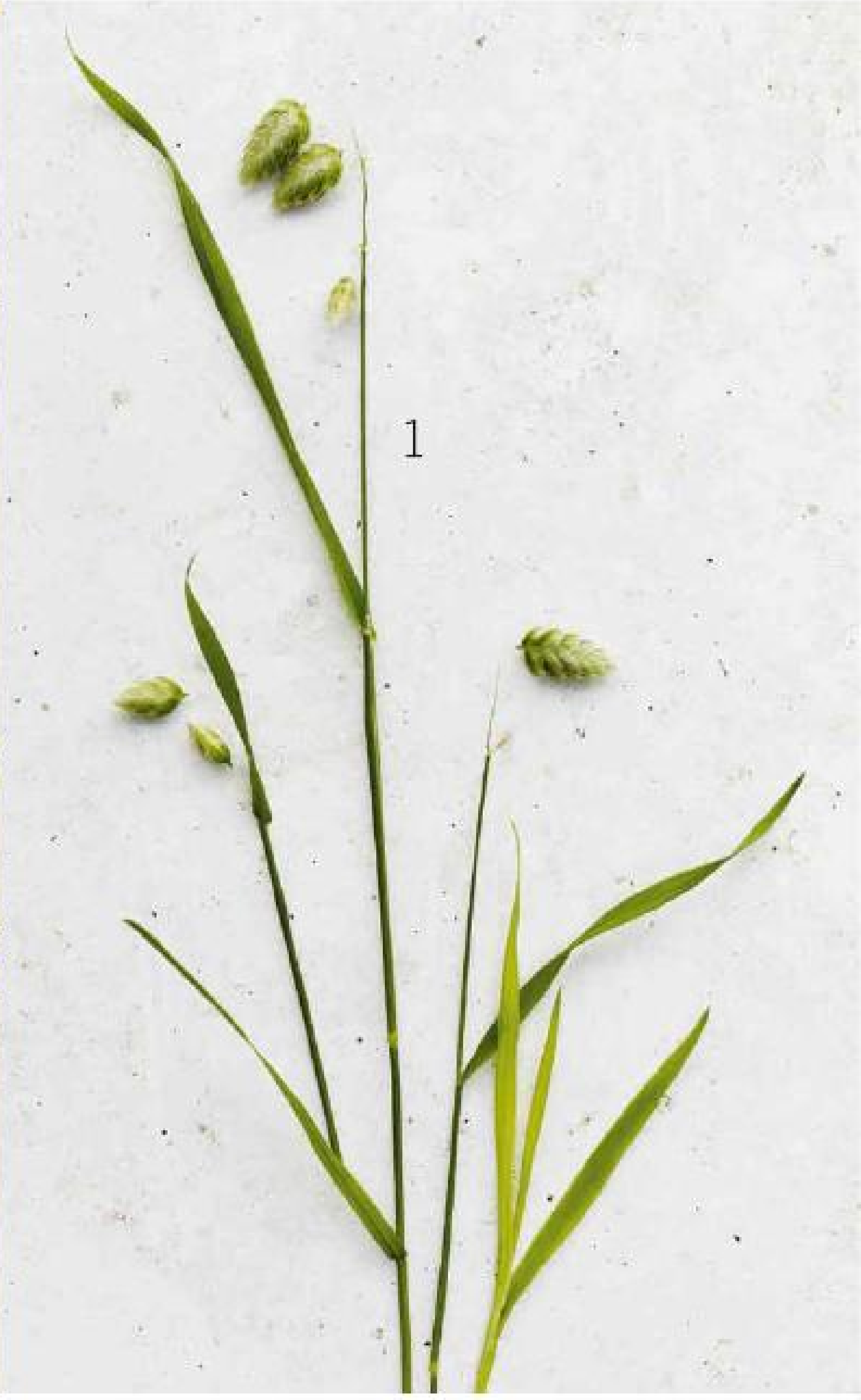
2 ***Eragrostis curvula* 'Totnes Burgundy'**
Height 90cm. **Season** July – September. **Amount** 15.

Suppliers

The Beth Chatto Gardens Tel 01206 822007, www.bethchatto.co.uk
Knoll Gardens Tel 01202 873931, www.knollgardens.co.uk
Sarah Raven Tel 0845 092 0283, www.sarahraven.com

NOTE: Quantities and plant sizes may vary according to container size and growing conditions.





Pearls of light

It's hard not to be captivated by the heart-shaped nodding flowers of the graceful grass *Briza maxima*; they catch the slightest breeze and shaft of light. Best grown in groups for maximum impact. It makes a wonderful window box or a table centrepiece to admire at eye level – evoking memories of cornfields, sunny meadows and roadside verges. The seedheads last well as cut flowers and can be dried for winter arrangements. I filled this rusty classic cast iron feeding bowl with plants I grew from seed and placed it beside self-seeding *Plantago major* 'Rubrifolia', so that they can seed freely together.

How to achieve the look

Cultivation and care

Briza is a genus of annual and perennial grasses in the family *Poaceae*. It is native to north temperate regions. The most common, *Briza media*, is widespread in grasslands and meadows in Britain, except for northern Scotland. *Briza maxima* is called 'greater quaking grass' in reference to the size of its seedheads. In the UK it is much less common in the wild than *Briza media*.

I was surprised by how easy this annual was to grow from seed and by how quickly the unusual flowers formed – it took just less than 12 weeks from spring sowing. In fact I had forgotten them among some other seedlings, and so had neglected to pot them on soon enough, which is probably why they haven't reached more than 25cm in height.

Ideally they should be sown in late August, but for a longer flowering season it's safest to sow some in autumn and then more in spring, in cell units or directly where they are to flower, to avoid disturbing their roots. This annual *Briza* prefers richer soil than most grasses and will tolerate semi-shade well. Other annual grasses to try are *Hordeum jubatum* and *Lagurus ovatus*.

Container

Briza can survive drought, so is well suited to being in a container, but ensure that the vessel you choose has drainage holes.

Plants

1 ***Briza maxima***
Height 45 cm. **Season** July – September. **Amount** 1 packet of seeds or 9 plants. RHS H4, USDA 5b-10b.

Suppliers

Chiltern Seeds Tel 01491 824675, www.chilternseeds.co.uk
Emorsgate Seeds Tel 01553 829028, www.wildseed.co.uk
Sarah Raven Tel 0845 092 0283, www.sarahraven.com
Seedaholic www.seedaholic.com

Contact details

To see more of Julia's work go to www.juliawylie.com

Scented doorway

Placing scented pots beside a doorway can help to slow you down on your way in from a busy day. I often plant *Lilium regale* and the tall white tobacco plant *Nicotiana alata* with bronze fennel and chocolate cosmos, but for this container I couldn't resist the striking contrast of the clear red flowers and almost black bracts and flower stems of the tough, long-flowering *Salvia* 'Royal Bumble'. Bright pink and lime green tobacco plants would work too, if you prefer something more muted, or are not quite ready for red.

How to achieve the look

Cultivation and care

The bronze fennel seeds can be dried and used in cooking, while the leaves are a great foil for the other plants and they smell of aniseed when crushed or picked. They are especially good with fish, so a similar pot could be positioned next to the barbecue or kitchen door. The cosmos flowers smell of vanilla but sadly are inedible. The salvia is cultivated in Mexico as a medicinal plant and is sometimes used to make tea.

All three plants prefer full sun and free-draining soil, so use a loam-based compost with extra grit. Bronze fennel self-seeds readily and the salvia can be propagated easily from cuttings. The cosmos can only be propagated by vegetative cuttings – ideally they should be moved to a frost-free greenhouse to over-winter. Deadheading the cosmos and salvia will help to prolong the flowers. The fennel seedheads will stand all winter and look wonderful when frosty. They all make great cut flowers and attract a wide range of pollinating insects.

Container

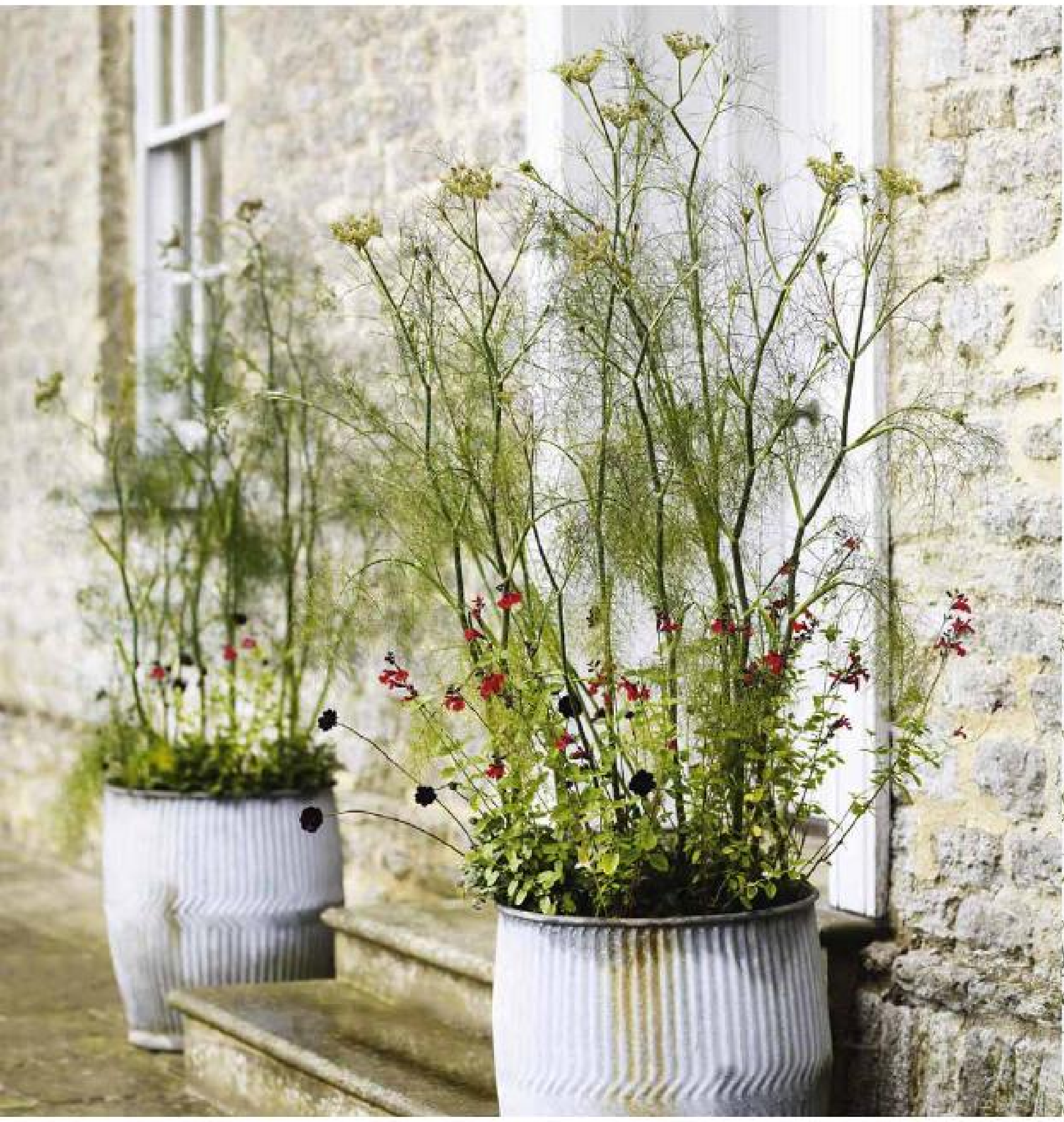
The grey vintage dolly washtubs are available at reclamation or antique dealers. They blend beautifully with the stone of this house, allowing the colours to stand out.

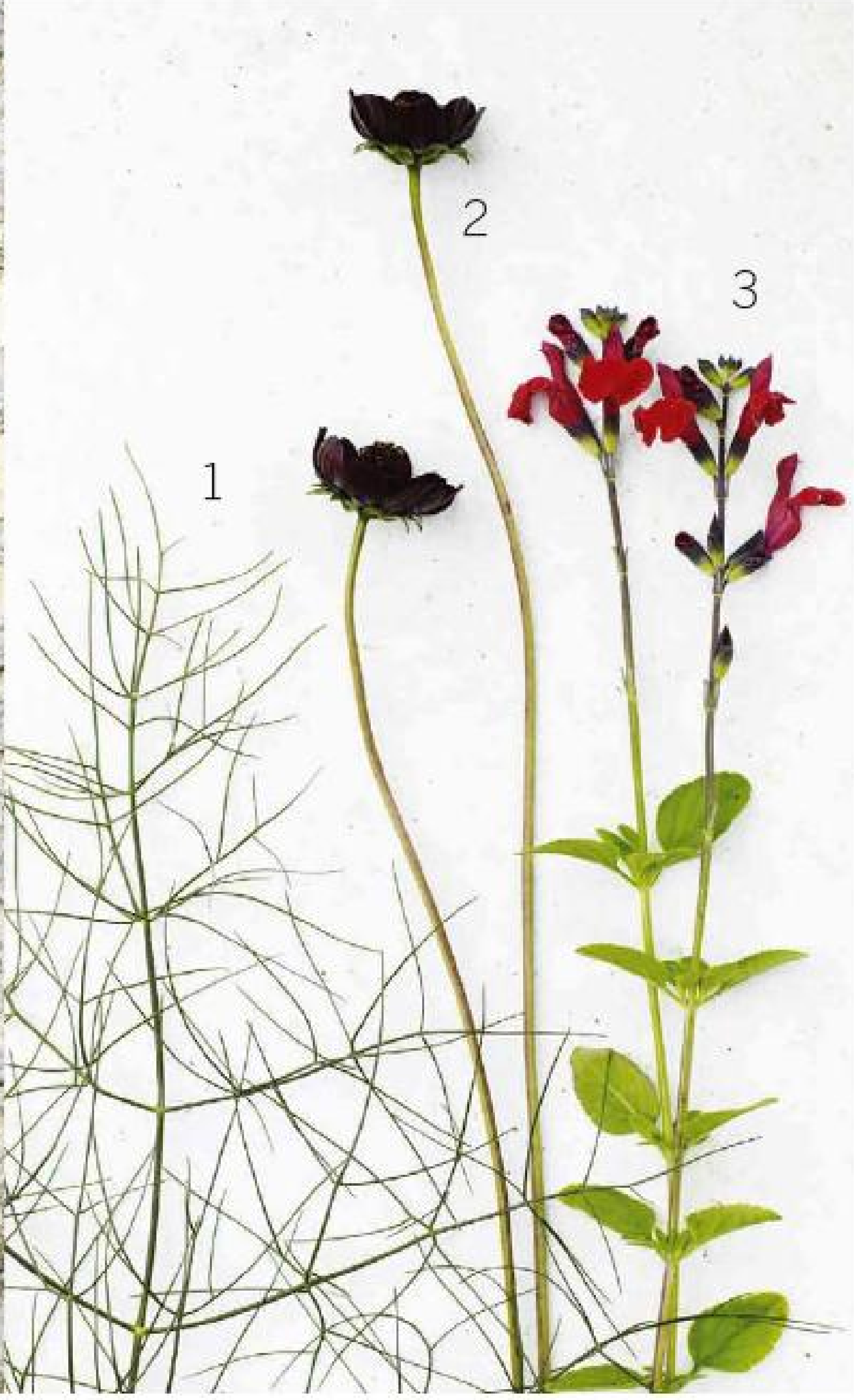
Plants

1. ***Foeniculum vulgare* 'Purpureum'**
   Height 1.5m–2.5m when growing in the ground. Size will depend on how well it is watered and fed in its pot. **Season** Flowers July – August, seedheads last all winter. **Amount** 3-4 per container. RHS H4, USDA 4a-9b.
2. ***Cosmos atrosanguineus***
   Height 50-90cm. **Season** June – October. **Amount** 3-5 per container. RHS H3, USDA 8a-10b.
3. ***Salvia* 'Royal Bumble'**
   Height 60cm. **Season** July – October. **Amount** 3-5 per container. USDA 8b-11.

Suppliers

RHS online plant shop Tel 0844 557 2623, www.rhsplants.co.uk





The sunken garden is one of the most colourful garden rooms at Chenies, filled with a range of perennial and bedding plants.

Buried treasure

Never before in its eventful history has Chenies Manor had an owner with the drive and passion to do justice to its gardens

WORDS JAMES ALEXANDER-SINCLAIR PHOTOGRAPHS ABIGAIL REX

In brief

NAME Chenies Manor.
WHAT Manor house garden divided into different sections. Big on colour.
WHERE Top of a hill in Buckinghamshire.
SIZE 5.5 acres.
CLIMATE Temperate UK conditions with one particularly frosty corner.
SOIL Silt over clay.
POINTS OF INTEREST Maze, kitchen gardens, tulips and bedding, plant fair in July.

There has been a manor in the Buckinghamshire village of Chenies since the days of the Domesday Book. Sited prominently on a hill above the River Chess, it has had various incarnations as the home of assorted worthies, including Edward I and a slew of Dukes of Bedford. The garden, however, is the work of one person and has been designed, built and nurtured by her since the 1950s.

Elizabeth Macleod-Matthews and her husband Alastair bought the manor 50 years ago. They took on a crumbling building, decked out in the most hideous linoleum and with dubious pipework, the sort of challenge only suited to the young and the driven. Having sorted out the house, Elizabeth set her sights on the five acres of garden. “I have always gardened,” she explains. “As a child I soon commandeered a greenhouse and then started growing sweet peas for showing. I used to make my boy-friends help with the watering.” The garden at Chenies in the 1950s consisted of a tumbledown sunken garden populated “mostly by gooseberries and some scabby apples”, a castellated laurel hedge that staggered diagonally across the front lawn and not much else. “Basically,” remembers Elizabeth, “it was a flattish lawn with a bit of a dip.” However, the soil was remarkable with about half a metre of perfect topsoil on top of clay. This probably arose because the pond supplying a paper mill was regularly dredged and the silt spread on the garden.

The first step was to divide the area into a series of different gardens using hedges and heavy trelliswork fences. One of the remarkable things about this garden is that, because it has been cared for from its inception by the same person, every single tree, shrub and herbaceous plant was chosen and planted by Elizabeth. As you wander round she points out a yew hedge that was grown from berries and some big bits of topiary. “I planted the yew small and nurtured it with big barrowloads of cow manure: my father’s accountant came to visit and announced that they would never survive so I had to prove him wrong!”

The original sunken garden has been restored and is the centrepiece to the justly famous tulip display, which has been going for nearly 25 years with the help of Bloms, the bulb merchants. Once the tulips are over they are swiftly removed and replaced with bedding – all grown from seed in the greenhouse – and the colour continues through the summer and into the first frosts, when the whole process starts again.

Radiating from here is the white garden – dominated by four big yew birds and a steel sculpture by Pete Moorhouse, around whose feet scuttle assorted white herbaceous plants. There is also a physic garden with beds of herbs, a rose garden dominated by standard *Rosa* ‘Ballerina’ and a scorching red border against the south gable of the house. Because the Elizabethans were not that keen on direct

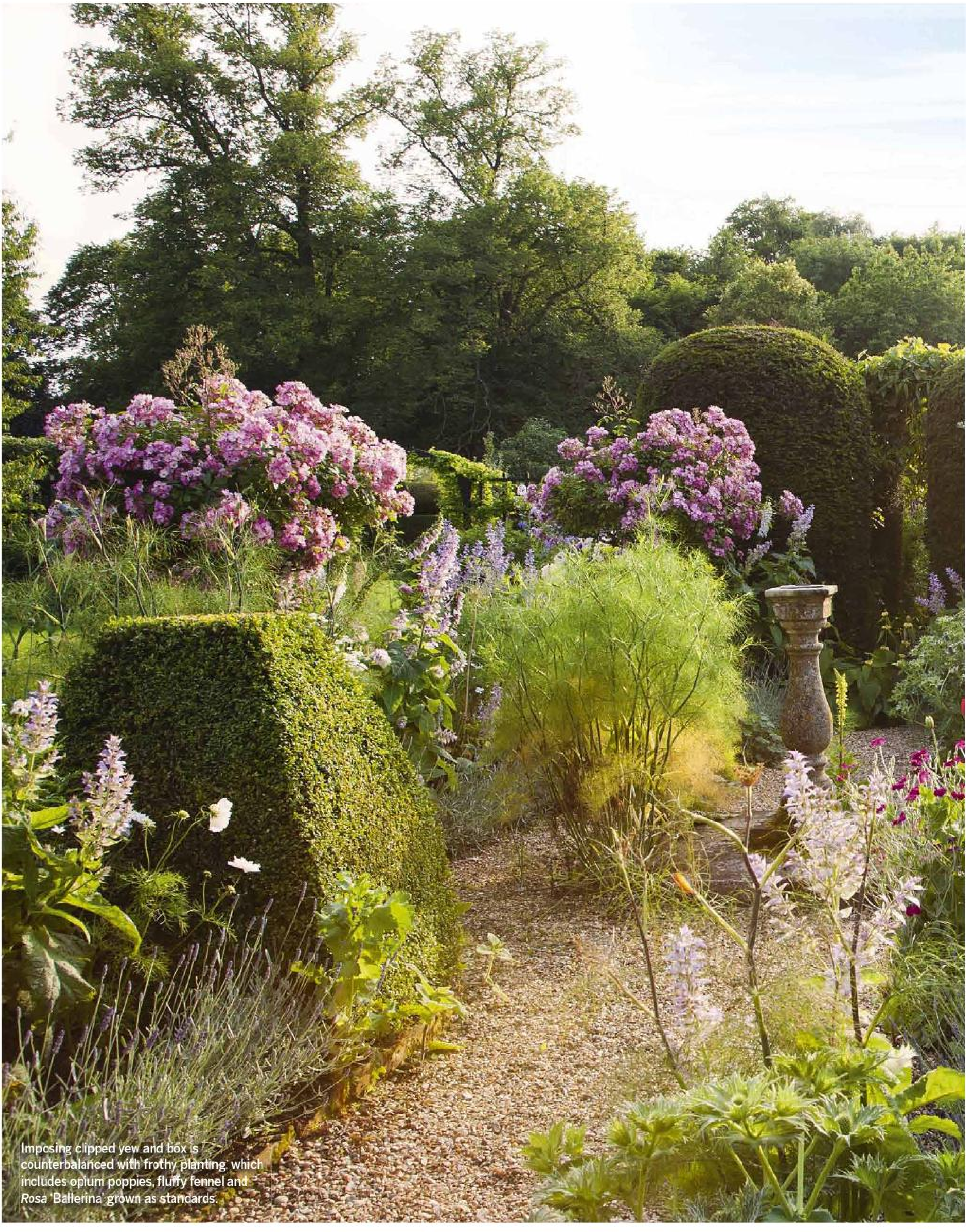
Continued on page 50 ▷

Top left Plentiful cultivars of *Dahlia* mingle with fennel to glorious effect.

Top right Dark *Prunus cerasifera* ‘Pissardii’ gives the perfect backdrop to Pete Moorhouse’s sculpture.

Bottom left Unobtrusive paving meanders to a gate, passing *Cordyline australis* in antique urns.

Bottom right A scarecrow keeps careful watch over jaunty *Dianthus barbatus* in the kitchen garden.



Imposing clipped yew and box is counterbalanced with frothy planting, which includes opium poppies, fluffy fennel and *Rosa* 'Ballerina' grown as standards.

The globed flowers of echinops are a favourite with bees, which Elizabeth hopes to encourage to the garden this year.

▷ sunlight this is a huge and windowless wall, which needs some hefty planting to keep it in check. Just across the ha-ha is a maze by contemporary maze designer Adrian Fisher in an unusual pattern of interlocking triangles – an icosahedron.

A little further afield the kitchen garden has formally alternating squares of lettuce and dahlias: an alarming prospect if you are a low-maintenance gardener. Elizabeth cheerfully admits that she "likes intensive gardening". She is helped in this endeavour by WRAGS (Women Returners to Amenity Gardening Scheme) students on two days a week, as well as two chaps who have been coming every Saturday for the last 20 years.

It would be possible for the routine of the garden to become set in its ways, but Elizabeth always has her eye on the next challenge. She has decided that this year will be the year of the bee. There will be displays, coffee mornings (or rather 'Bee Teas'), lectures and pollinating plants will be given away to visitors. And after that? "I am looking for a National Collection to adopt: possibly ferns," Elizabeth announces. □

USEFUL INFORMATION

Chenies, Buckinghamshire WD3 6ER. **Open** Wednesdays and Thursdays from April to November. The Chenies Plant Fair is on 21 July. **Tel** 01494 762888. **Website** www.cheniesmanorhouse.co.uk You can find more on the WRAGS scheme at www.wfga.org.uk

History of the manor

Chenies Manor is a mêlée of different buildings and extensions. There is a 13th-century undercroft from which various tunnels radiate under the garden (undiscovered until a large yew died because its roots were dangling, unnourished, in mid-air). Upon this the main house was built in the 16th century along with various wings and a banqueting house.

After the Restoration the Dukes of Bedford moved from Chenies in 1627 to the rather grander surroundings of Woburn Abbey, where they still reside, surrounded by lions and impertinent baboons. The house entered a period of directionless neglect – it was subdivided and in the 18th century bits were demolished. The Macleod-Matthews, who moved to Chenies in the 1950s, are the most consistent residents since the 17th century.

There must have been some sort of garden at some point in the history of Chenies but, in order for any garden to survive it must be gardened, and tenants don't care as much as owners. As a result it was unloved and under-maintained for centuries before the 1950s and it needed a gardener with the drive and passion of Elizabeth to wrench it back on course.

9 of Elizabeth's best summer plants

1 *Rosa* 'Ballerina'
Flowers enthusiastically. Grown here as standards leading to the yew walk. AGM*. RHS H4, USDA 5a-10b†.

2 *Leucanthemum vulgare*
Dark green spoon-shaped leaves and solitary white flowerheads with yellow disk florets. These arrive in late spring and early summer. RHS H4, USDA 3a-9b.

3 *Rosa* 'Penelope'
One of a ribbon of musk roses that stutter along one of the main borders. Scented, good hips and about 1.5m high. AGM. RHS H4, USDA 5a-10b.

4 *Eryngium giganteum*
Vigorous biennial that goes well with almost anything. Tends to spread itself about a bit. Spiny leaves. AGM. RHS H4, USDA 5a-8b.

5 *Nepeta* 'Six Hills Giant'
Long-flowering cottage garden stalwart. Flutters around box topiary and lines the length of a path in the kitchen garden. RHS H4, USDA 3a-8b.

6 *Tanacetum parthenium*
The perfect example of one man's weed being another's blessing. A lively companion to most plants and perfect for filling gaps but you do need a firm hand! RHS H4, USDA 5a-9b.

7 *Salvia sclarea*
A bit of an anomaly – this plant has rather fabulous flowers but a smell that some find unpleasant. Still, well worth growing if you have the space. USDA 4a-10b.

8 *Astrantia major* var. *rosea*
A perfect front of border plant. Lots of flowers over a long period of time, beloved by bees and a good companion for roses and other flowering shrubs. USDA 5a-9b.

9 *Rosa gallica* 'Versicolor'
Compact, prickly shrubs with dull green foliage and generally fragrant, single to double flowers in small clusters in mid-summer. AGM. RHS H4, USDA 4a-8b.

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.
†Hardiness ratings given where available.

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7 TREVOR SIMS / GARDENWORLD IMAGES

In brief

Name Dillycot.

What South-facing garden in a rural location, sheltered by mature native hedges.

Where Culkerton, a small village midway between Tetbury and Cirencester in Gloucestershire.

Size A quarter of an acre.

Climate A windy, open position prone to cold winters and easterly winds.

Soil Variable with some stony areas of Cotswold brash, but with much better, deeper soil in other parts.

Points of interest Exemplary nature garden designed with butterflies, bees, birds and small mammals in mind.

The rich purple flowers of *Phlox paniculata* 'Harlequin' mingle with white *Agapanthus*.

Butterfly heaven

This Gloucestershire garden is a paradise for wildlife, especially pollinators

WORDS VAL BOURNE PHOTOGRAPHS LYNN KEDDIE

Push open Sally Oates's old wrought iron garden gate, set forth up the narrow path to the house, and you can't fail to notice the chorus of birdsong. As you near the front porch a huge number of bees are busy on their quest for nectar and pollen and I can guarantee it will only be a moment or two before a butterfly ascends into the air and dances on to the next feeding station. Dillycot is designed to sustain and attract wildlife – particularly butterflies. In April a small tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*) is likely to settle on one of the many yellow dandelions allowed to flower. In summer it might be a sulphur-yellow male brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*), seduced by a bright-pink perennial pea *Lathyrus latifolius*. Or in late summer or early autumn there are painted ladies (*Vanessa cardui*), carried up from Africa, living out their final days on the purple platforms of *Verbena bonariensis*.

Sally has gardening in her genes. Her mother taught her how to strike lavender cuttings at the age of five. "Once I'd rooted those I was well away." Her father, a founder member of the HDRA (now Garden Organic), loved growing fruit. As a result her childhood garden in Hampshire was productive and organic. Later she forged a perfect partnership with Matthew Oates, poet and National Trust butterfly expert. They now have four children: Lily, Rosie, Millie and their son Arion, who is named in honour of the large blue butterfly (*Maculinea arion*).

Sally describes her garden as Edwardian in essence. Peonies and phloxes, both Edwardian favourites with quintessential English charm, are widely used. On warm late summer evenings lanterns cast a mellow light, and the fragrant *Phlox paniculata* 'Blue Paradise', is stunning in the gloaming.

However, the best butterfly magnets of all are the 20 named forms of *Buddleja davidii*. These are woven through this garden, providing a wide range of colour. They flower over a long period when deadheaded assiduously to promote more honey-scented flowers. "My favourite early one, *Buddleja davidii* var. *nanhoensis*, produces slender blue flowers by June," Sally tells me. "But the best by far is 'Dartmoor'. It's spectacular in flower, although it only lasts two to three weeks."

As the butterflies roost at night, moths appear in numbers in search of pale flowers that release their nectar in the evening. Some find their way into Matthew's moth trap for further inspection the following morning. With wildlife threatened, more of us need to garden in this gentle, benevolent style. ☐

• Turn the page for plants and pollinators

Management

Never cut down all your plants in one go. Go for a staggered system so that insects and small mammals always have some shelter. Sheep's sorrel *Rumex acetosella* and teasel *Dipsacus fullonum* are never cut down. The grass is allowed to form a meadow in much of the garden. Other areas are mowed every three weeks. Dandelions and nettles are allowed space, but Sally spends at least half a day every week weeding. She has banished wild thistles, but grows globe artichokes and other thistle-like flowers instead. Ducks keep slugs and snails at bay.

Hedges for shelter

Butterfly gardens need to be very sheltered and warm. Dillycot is surrounded by native hedges, mainly hawthorn and blackberries are encouraged to ramble. Sally has planted an inner hedge as well, using box. Box hedges are also used to divide the garden into rooms.

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10 plants to attract wildlife

What should you plant to turn your plot into a pollinators' paradise?

1 *Echinops sphaerocephalus*

The globe thistle will sustain bees and butterflies during the first part of summer. AGM[*]. RHS H4, USDA 3a-9b[†].

2 *Origanum vulgare* 'Aureum'

The common golden marjoram, like many herbs, produces concentrated nectar in July and August. This is grown on poorer soil in hot spots close to the house. AGM. RHS H4, USDA 6a-11.

3 *Rubus phoenicolasius*

The decorative Japanese wineberry is another rambling plant allowed free reign in warmer parts of the garden. The white flowers are nectar-rich and the fruit sweet to eat. USDA 6a-8b.

4 *Petroselinum crispum*

Parsley happily self-seeds here. The white umbels, containing miniature white flowers, are favoured by hoverflies. RHS H4.

5 *Lathyrus latifolius*

Although not fragrant, these make wonderful cut flowers and bees and butterflies adore them. AGM. RHS H4, USDA 5a-9b.

6 *Buddleja davidii* 'Dartmoor'

Unique and distinct with plump fingers of flowers that form a large hand. Can often be seen covered in butterflies in August. Prune for bigger flowers. AGM. RHS H5, USDA 5a-9b.

7 *Dipsacus fullonum*

This teasel has tiny pink flowers that attract bees and butterflies. The leafy winter rosette offers shelter and the leaf axils hold small pools of water, useful in dry summers. Self-seeds enthusiastically, but statuesque in winter. USDA 3a-8b.

8 *Buddleja* x *weyeriana* 'Sungold'

Golden-yellow flowers, flushed in orange, form little balls rather than the usual finger-shaped head. This provides late nectar, usually flowering in late August and September. AGM. RHS H4, USDA 5a-9b.

9 *Cynara cardunculus* Scolymus Group

The huge blue flowers on this tall architectural plant are bee and butterfly magnets. In winter, following a sunny summer, seeds can sustain birds. The winter rosette and bud scales shelter small insects. AGM. USDA 7a-9b.

10 *Foeniculum vulgare*

Highly popular with hoverflies. These pollinate the plant and their larvae predate small pests, so both are desirable in organically run gardens. RHS H4, USDA 4a-9b.

[*] Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.
[†] Hardiness ratings given where available.

10 butterflies and bees

You've got the plants, so what sort of wildlife can you expect to visit your garden?

1 Large white (*Pieris brassicae*)
Their presence makes it impossible to grow cabbages, which are ravaged by the caterpillars, but it's still a lovely butterfly in flight. Here it feeds on *Verbena bonariensis*.

2 Gatekeeper (*Pyronia tithonus*)
Sometimes called the hedge brown this butterfly is drawn to the sugar-rich nectar of the golden marjoram *Origanum vulgare* 'Aureum', which is a lover of poor soil.

3 Comma (*Polygonia c-album*)
This deep-orange butterfly – with a lower wing resembling the shape of a comma – mainly flies in May and June. Its preferred food plant is the hop, but the caterpillars also feed on nettles. Some hibernate, appearing on the wing in March.

4 Honey bee (*Apis mellifera*)
Western honey bees live in colonies and forage for flower nectar which they convert into honey. Selective breeding means that bees can produce more honey than the colony needs. In recent years there has been much concern over their decline in numbers.

5 Painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*)
One of the most widespread butterflies, appearing on most continents. Won't survive the winter, but will enjoy spending its final days with late flowers such as *Verbena bonariensis*.

6 Buff-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris*)
This is one of the most numerous bumblebee species in Europe, and is particularly attracted to *Echium vulgare*. Since 1987 *B. terrestris* has been bred for use as a pollinator for European greenhouse crops, particularly tomatoes.

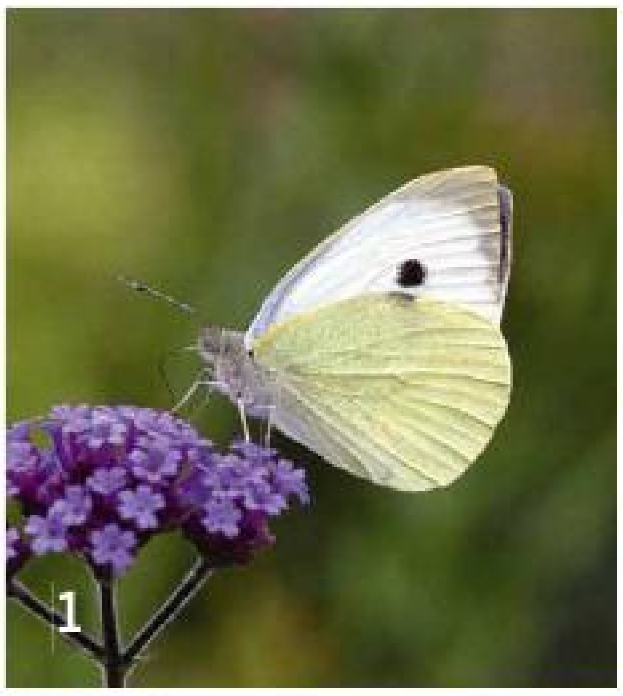
7 Peacock (*Inachis io*)
The large eye-spots, designed to frighten predators away, give this colourful butterfly its name. The black caterpillars, shrouded under a silken net, feed on stinging nettles.

8 Mint moth (*Pyrausta aurata*)
The mint moth or marjoram moth has a wingspan of 10-15mm and can be seen from April until the end of September. You might even get two generations in a single season. It likes wild mints, marjoram, thyme and other labiates.

9 Red admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*)
This spectacular black butterfly, marked in red and white, flies early in the year and late. It's really a migrant capable of flying long distances, but some are resident in warmer parts of Britain, sometimes feeding on snowdrops early in the year.

10 Brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*)
A well-camouflaged butterfly that looks just like a young leaf. Can be found most months of the year, although peak flight times are in April and May as adults emerge from hibernation.

5 CHRIS LLOYD / ALAMY, 10 DAVID CHAPMAN / ALAMY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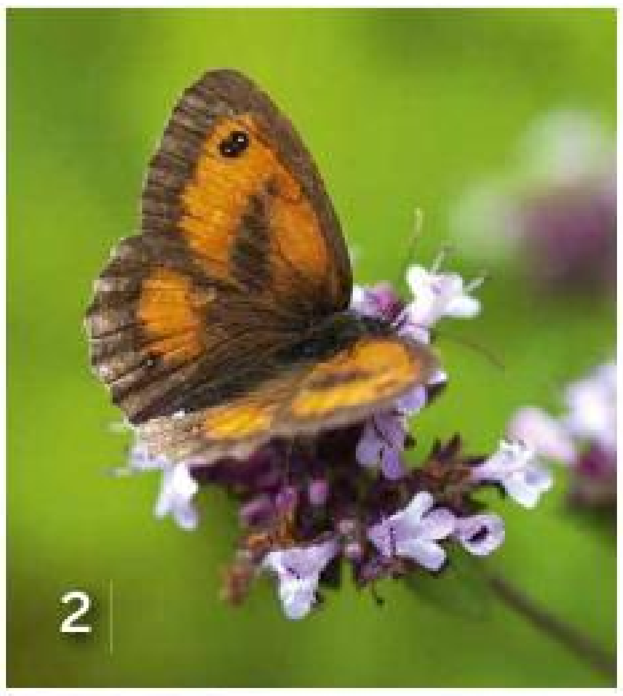
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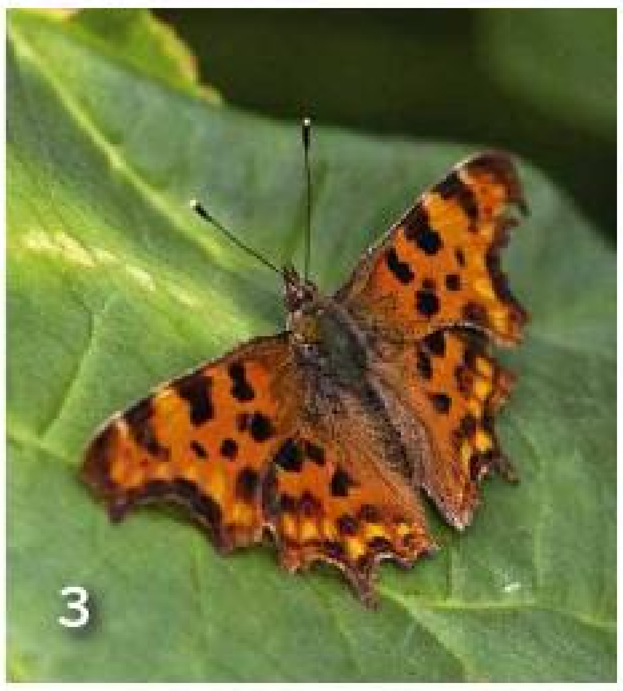
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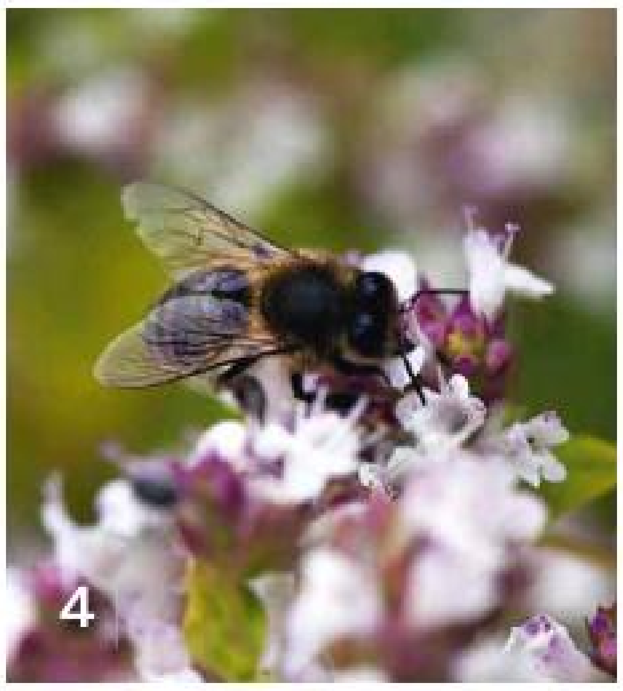
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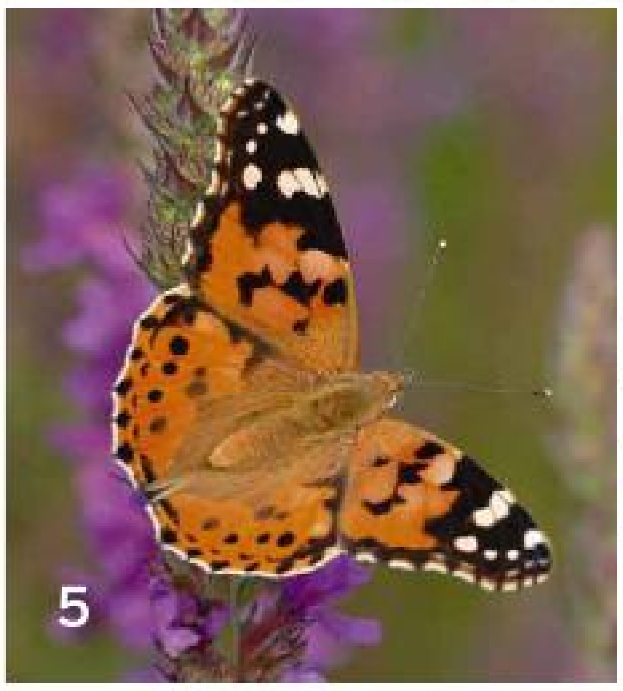
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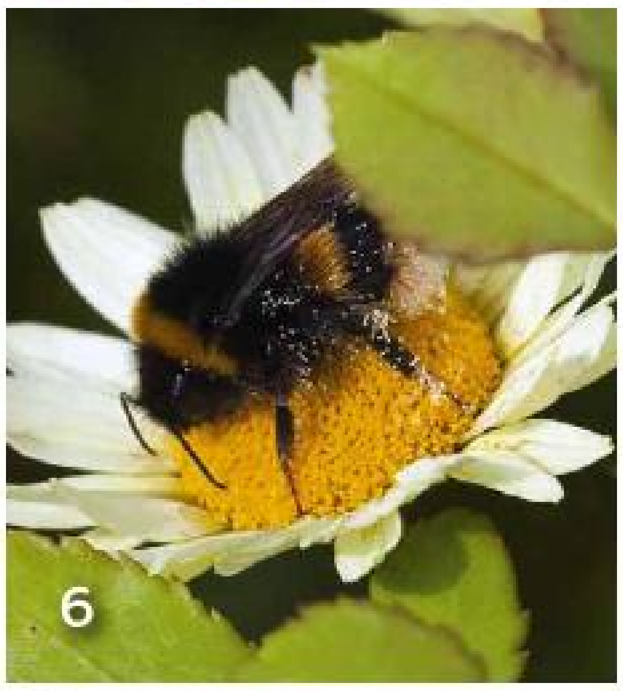
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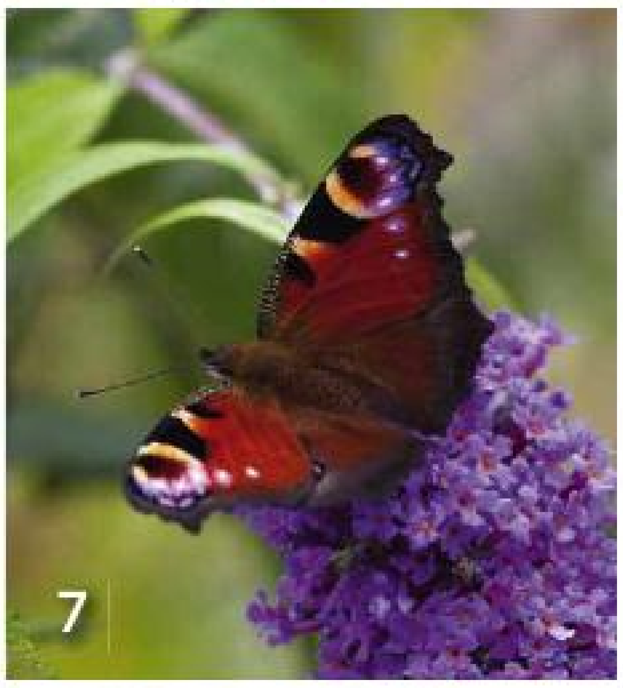
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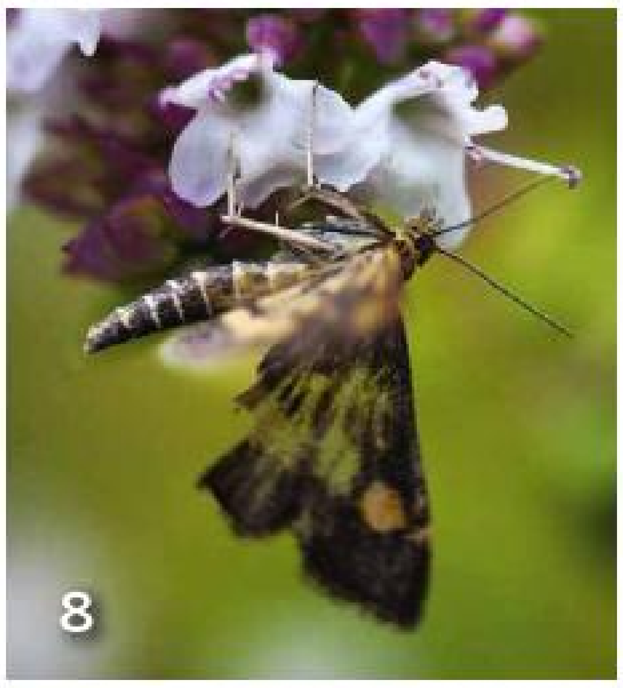
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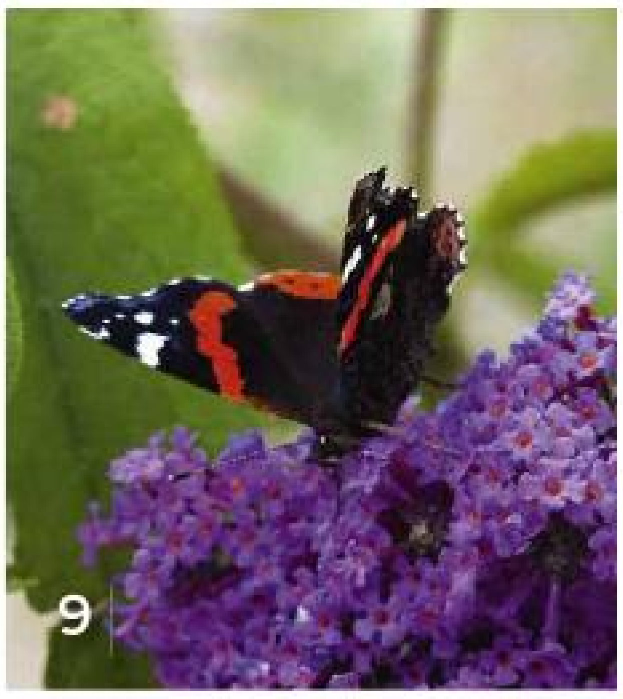
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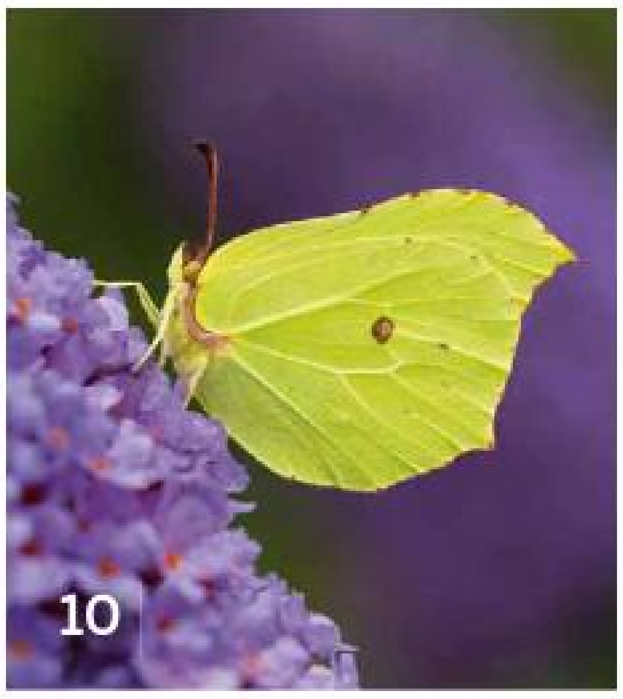
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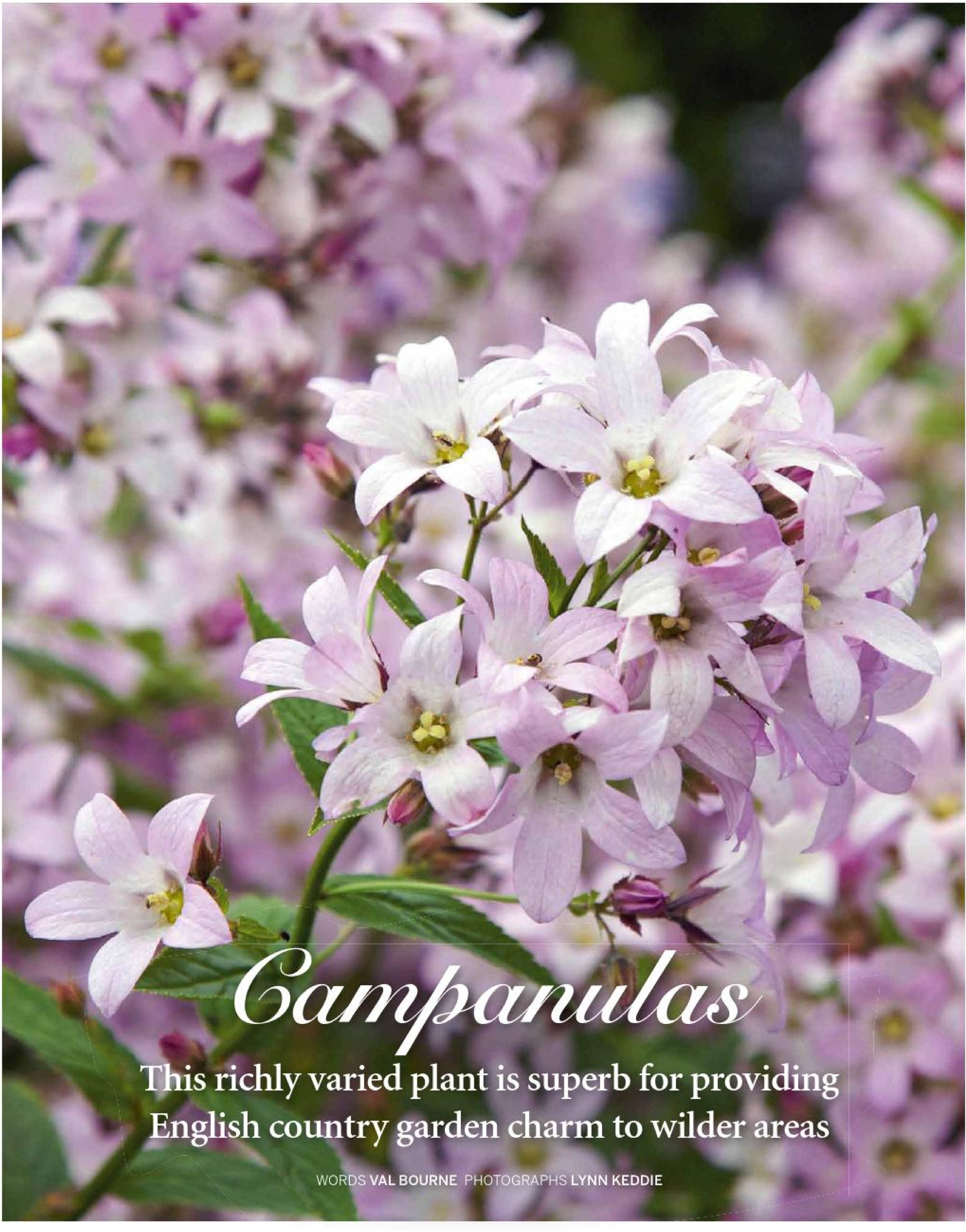
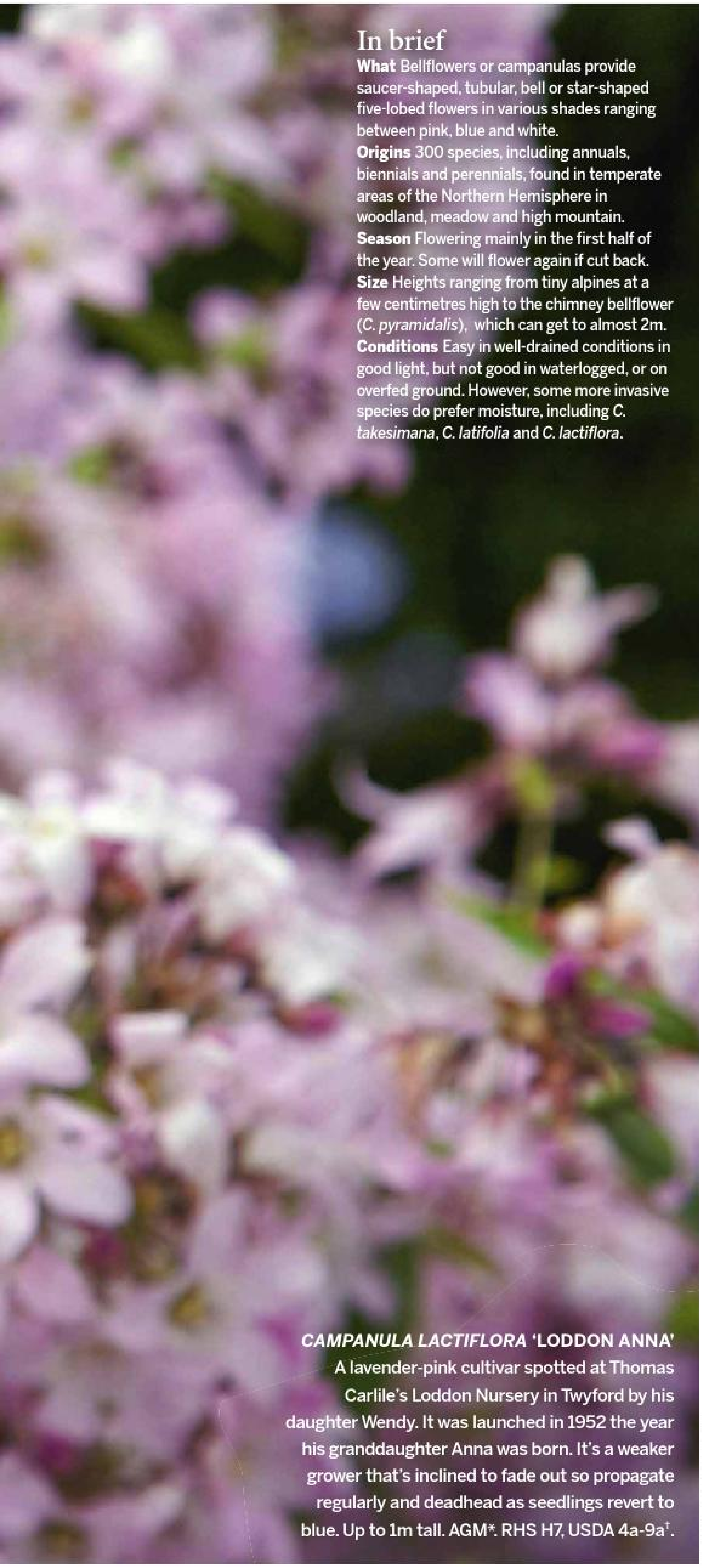


Campanulas

This richly varied plant is superb for providing English country garden charm to wilder areas

WORDS **VAL BOURNE** PHOTOGRAPHS **LYNN KEDDIE**



In brief

What Bellflowers or campanulas provide saucer-shaped, tubular, bell or star-shaped five-lobed flowers in various shades ranging between pink, blue and white.
Origins 300 species, including annuals, biennials and perennials, found in temperate areas of the Northern Hemisphere in woodland, meadow and high mountain.
Season Flowering mainly in the first half of the year. Some will flower again if cut back.
Size Heights ranging from tiny alpines at a few centimetres high to the chimney bellflower (*C. pyramidalis*), which can get to almost 2m.
Conditions Easy in well-drained conditions in good light, but not good in waterlogged, or on overfed ground. However, some more invasive species do prefer moisture, including *C. takesimana*, *C. latifolia* and *C. lactiflora*.

***CAMPANULA LACTIFLORA* 'LODDON ANNA'** A lavender-pink cultivar spotted at Thomas Carlile's Loddon Nursery in Twyford by his daughter Wendy. It was launched in 1952 the year his granddaughter Anna was born. It's a weaker grower that's inclined to fade out so propagate regularly and deadhead as seedlings revert to blue. Up to 1m tall. AGM*. RHS H7, USDA 4a-9a[†].

LINDSAY CONSTABLE / ALAMY

Val Bourne is an award-winning garden writer, photographer and lecturer. She gardens in the windswept Cotswolds

Campanulas add a very English country garden charm to a traditional border, with their simple bells in various shades of blue, white and pink. The bells vary from open saucer to pixie cap to tubular, and all satisfy the bees. But be warned, you must be selective because some are thuggish and self-seed aggressively, while others invade large patches of ground. Although these can make good choices for wilder areas, they cause havoc in a flower border.

The recent RHS trial, held at RHS Wisley between 2011 and 2013, has introduced some new cultivars to the public gaze and rediscovered some old favourites. The new *Campanula* 'Crystal' produces the same pale-amethyst bells and dark buds as 'Burghaltii' – not surprising as they are the of the same hybrid origin. However 'Crystal' outshone the 100-year old 'Burghaltii', forming a stronger more floriferous plant of great beauty. The legendary, violet-blue 'Prichard's Variety' was elusive and unfortunately our plants on the trial were paler imitations. However, having 70 campanulas to admire and assess threw up some interesting observations.

There were 13 variants of the peach-leaved bellflower, *Campanula persicifolia*, a native of Europe, Africa and north and western Asia, which arrived here in the 16th century. These included whites and blues with frilly doubles, elegant singles and simple cup and saucer flowers that open in early summer on wiry stems. Staking looks unsightly, so allow these to weave their way through other herbaceous plants instead.

Generally doubles last longer than singles, but you must cut the whole stem down after flowering to prevent inferior seedlings popping up. The elegant 'Hampstead White' (see page 59) was much admired for its white cup and saucer flowers and cool-green buds. 'La Belle', a newer deep-blue fuller double, shone too. However, the old favourite 'Pride of Exmouth', which was discovered in the Devonshire town 100 years ago, was still appreciated for its pale-blue hose-in-hose ▷

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*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.
[†] Hardiness ratings given where available.

▷ flowers. 'Blue Bloomers' produced substantial blue flowers that shrugged off the rain well and the green stigma in each flower added great charm.

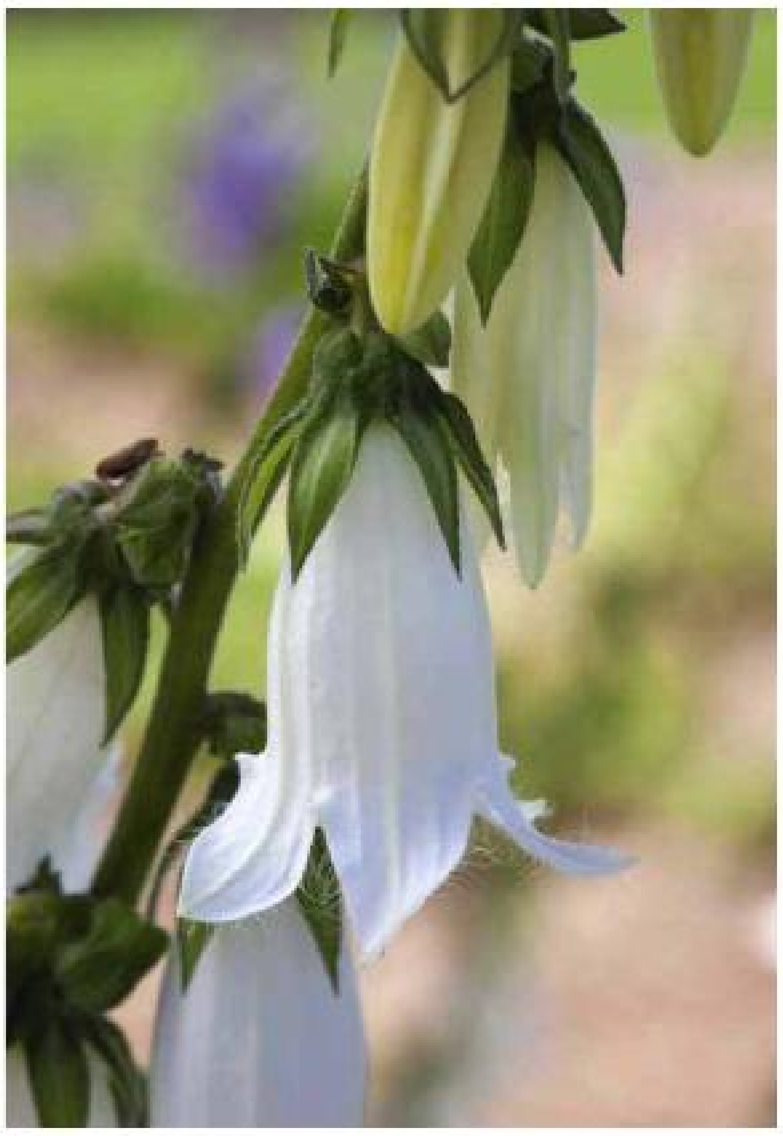
If you only have room for one border campanula, the milky-flowered bellflower, *C. lactiflora*, is the one. Phlox-like panicles of flower held on stiffish stems billow up in early July and, if given the Chelsea chop (cut down by a third in late May), this flowers after the main flush of roses. Always cut off the spent upper flowers and then more will appear lower down, giving many weeks of flower. The pallid, lilac-pink 'Loddon Anna' (page 56) is very pretty, but not nearly as vigorous as the blues. The Loddon Nursery took several years to build up enough stock.

All 'lactifloras' fade after three to four years as the woody roots become gnarled and rise above the soil. If this happens, the plant only sends out a couple of weaker shoots. The remedy is taking cuttings every spring.

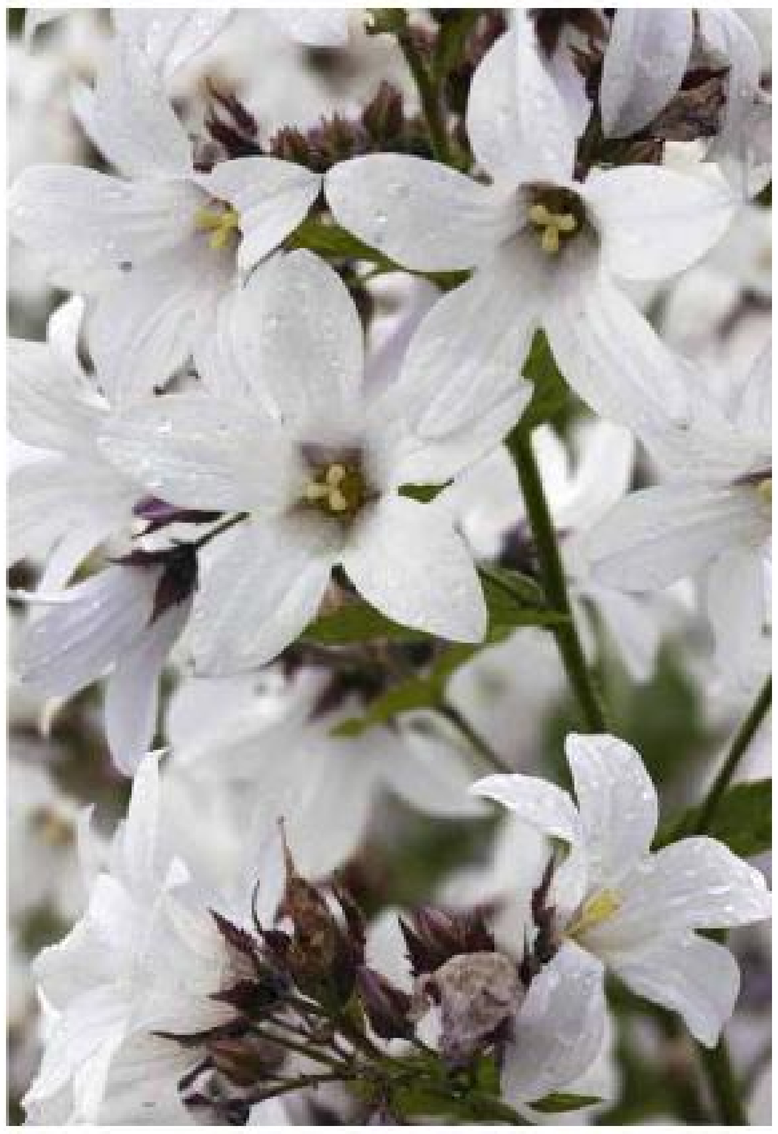
Two species produce stiff spires and the most eye catching of the two is a cultivar of *Campanula latiloba*. The saucer-shaped flowers almost seem stuck to the upper half of the stems with 'Hidcote Amethyst' (page 60) proving a star. *C. latifolia* produces slightly upright facing bells held on short stalks. 'Misty Dawn' was exceptional – although it may change name as the smaller spires of grey-blue bells are not typical of this rugged species.

Some invasive species must be relegated to the wilder border. They include two with muddy pink bells, *C. takesimana* and *C. punctata* (page 61). Both seem to produce too much leaf and too little flower. They failed to woo the trials panel but they look more at home in dappled shade. The clustered bell flowers can produce flowers in May and *C. glomerata* 'Emerald' (page 61) produced green foliage (hence the name), dusky stems and sky-blue flowers with a pink tinge. 'Caroline' was also attractive with pink reverses to the petal. 'Freya' (page 61) is a new blue compact cultivar for smaller gardens. These are better deadheaded, as the dying heads can look very unsightly. The trick as a gardener is selecting ones to suit your situation – then your bellflowers will strike the right chord for you and the bees. □

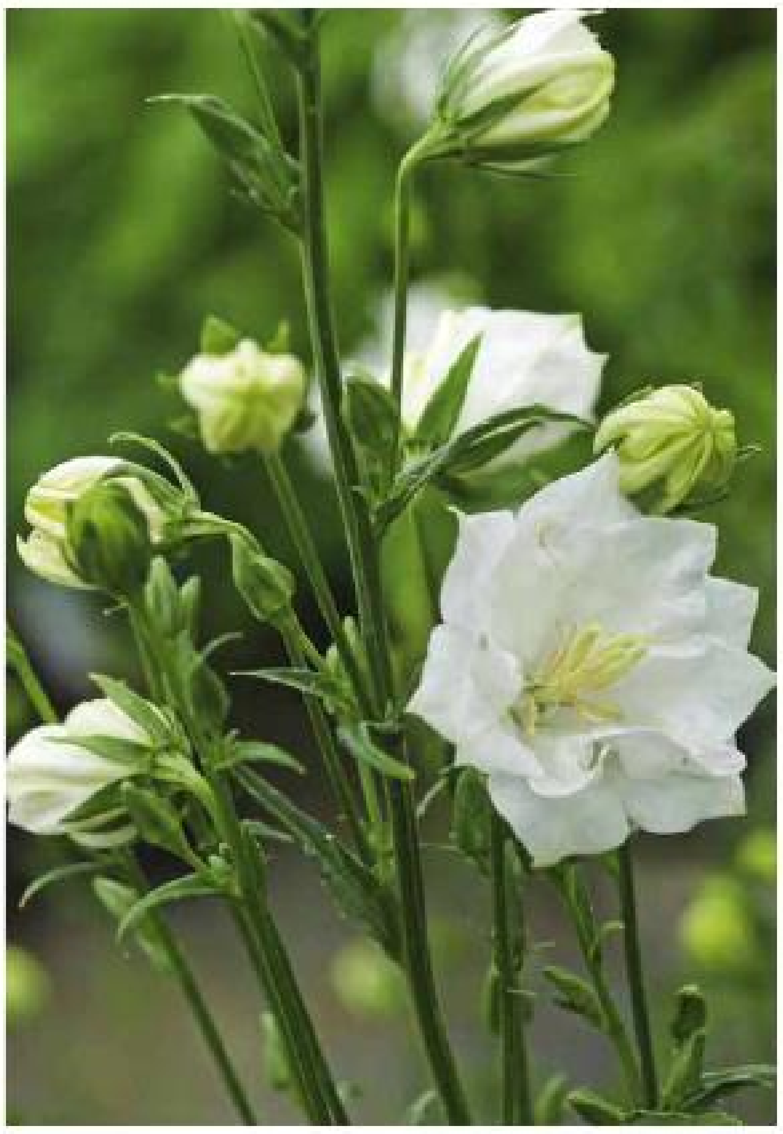
• Val's pick of campanulas continues over the next six pages.



CAMPANULA ALLIARIIFOLIA
For the wild garden only as this is a terribly invasive self-seeder. The drooping bells hang down from one side of the spike. In the wild it grows in the conifer forests of Turkey, the Caucasus and Anatolia. 60cm. USDA 3a-9a.

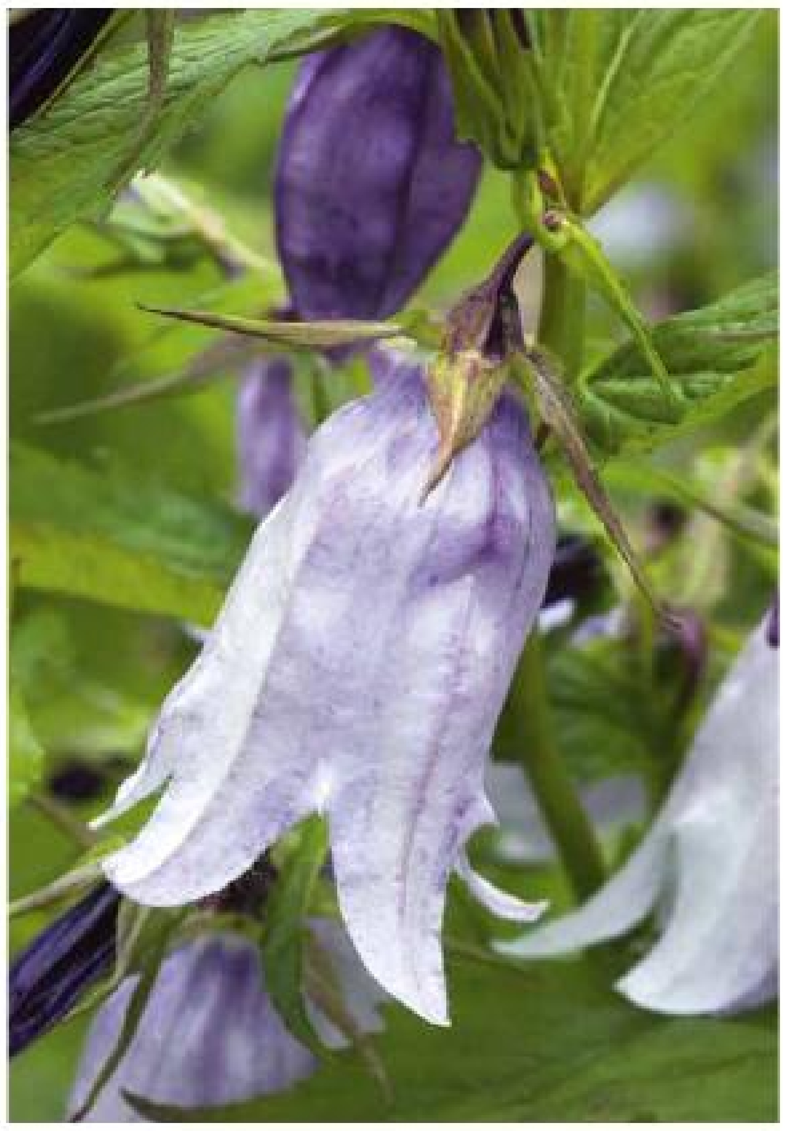


***C. LACTIFLORA* 'ALBA'**
The real, but elusive, cultivar should be pure-white without any touches of blue or grey. Like all white campanulas it browns as it fades. However it is stunning set among dark roses. AGM.

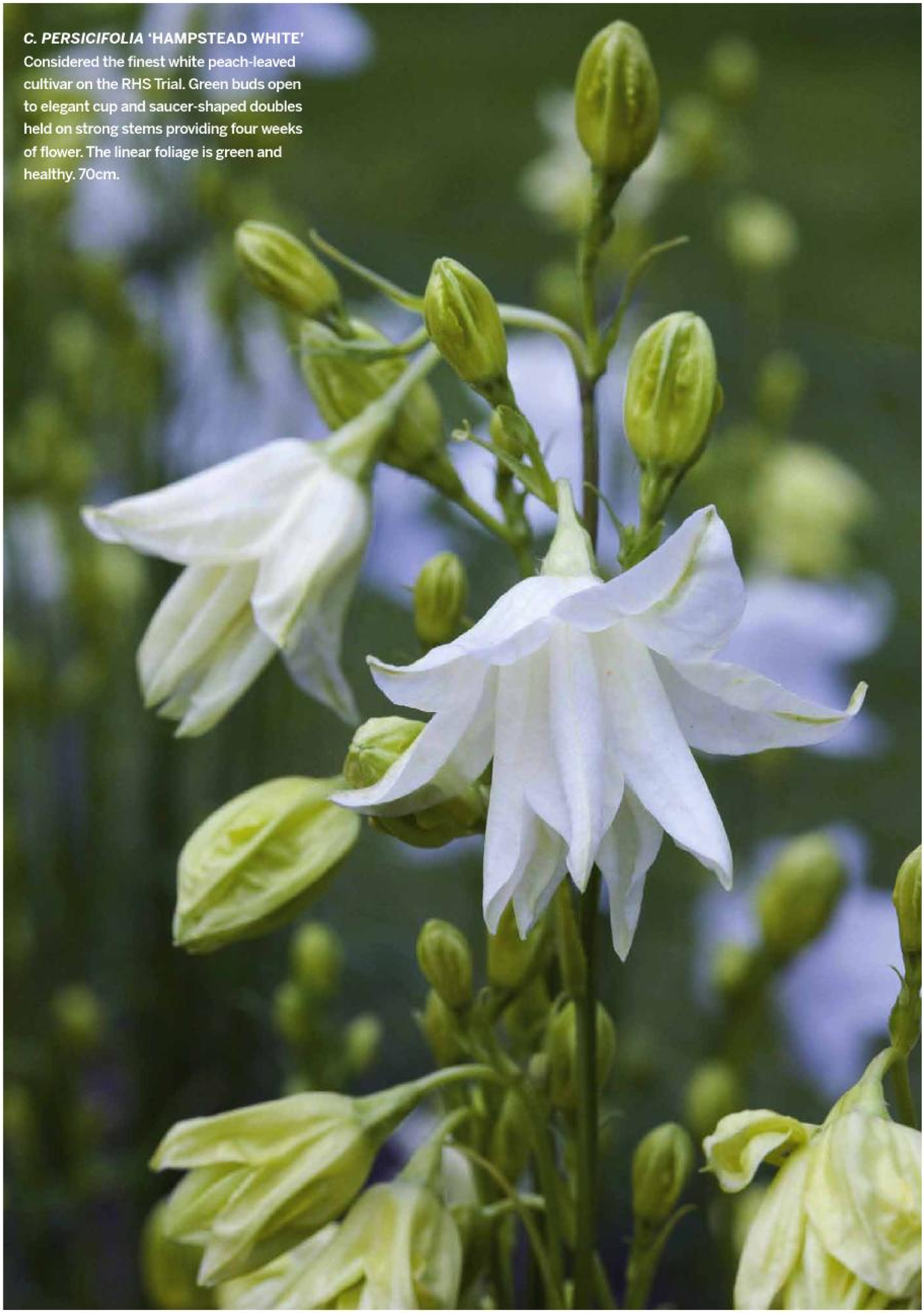


***C. PERSICIFOLIA* 'FLEUR DE NEIGE'**
A double white cultivar of the peach-leaved bellflower of early summer, which forms rosettes. Difficult to stake, but it threads through other plants. Deadhead to prevent the fine seed from settling. 70cm.

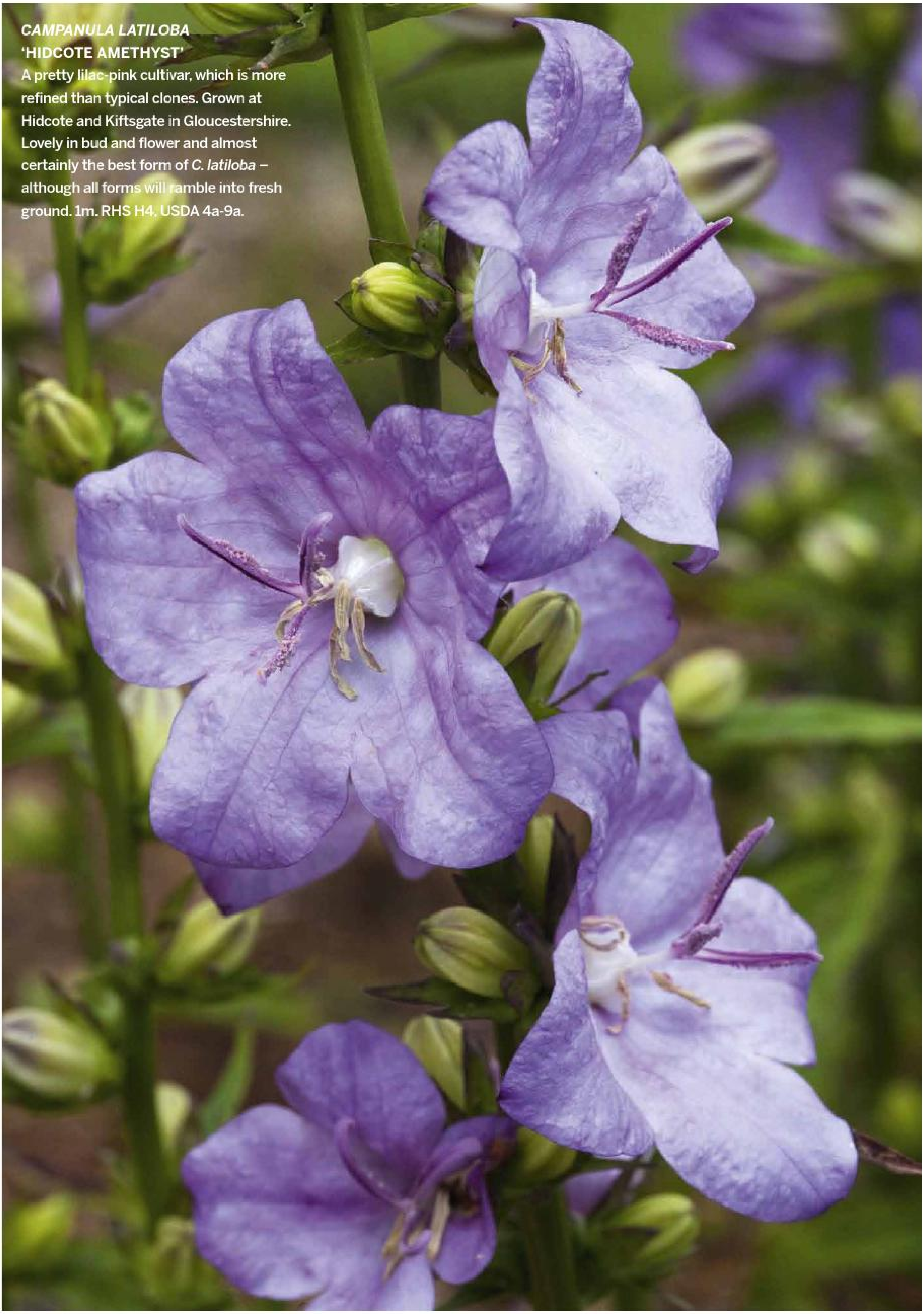
BOB BROWN / COTSWOLD GARDEN FLOWERS



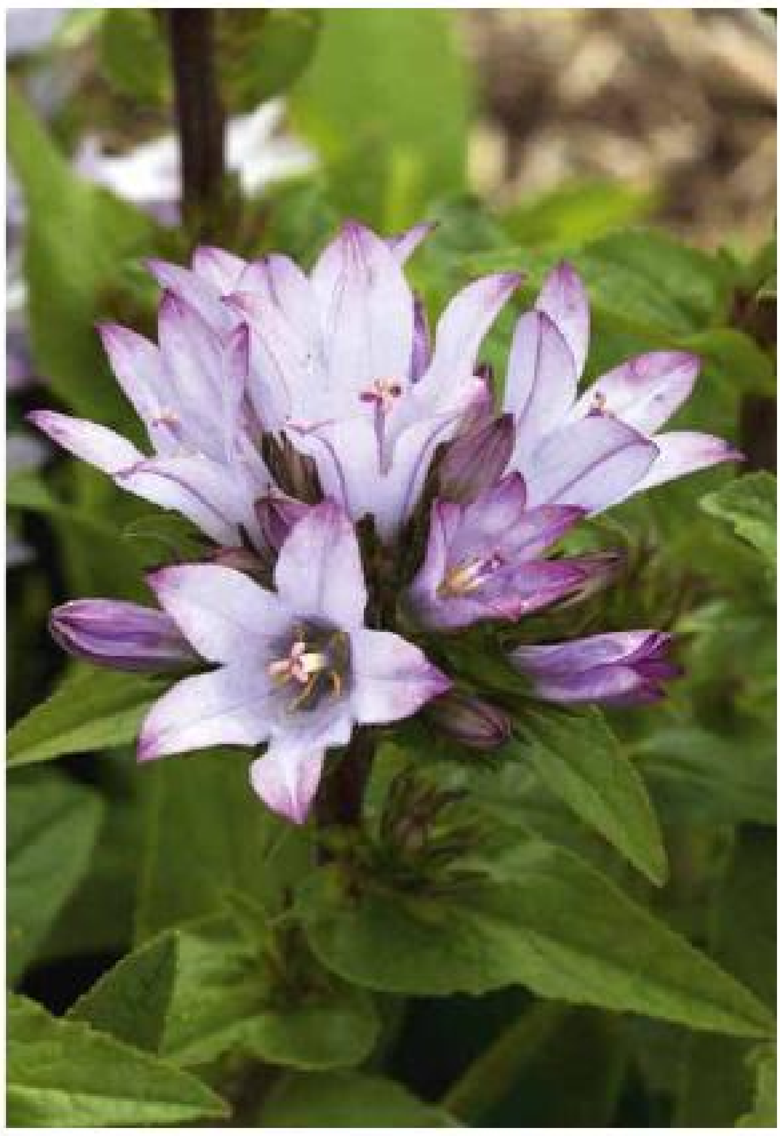
C. 'CRYSTAL'
Longstanding favourite. The grey-blue tubular flowers appear against a background of purple buds. This sterile hybrid of *C. punctata* and *C. latifolia*, which prefers dappled shade, is long-lived. 60cm. AGM. RHS H7, USDA 4a-8b.



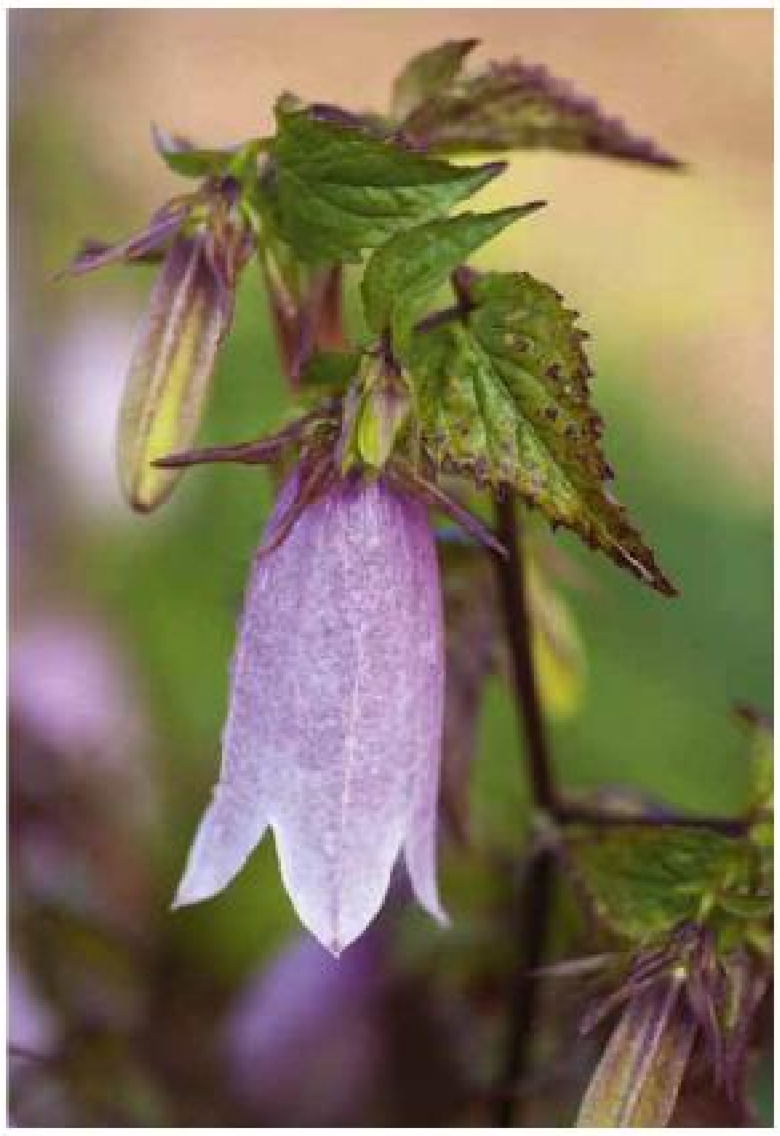
C. *PERSICIFOLIA* 'HAMPSTEAD WHITE'
Considered the finest white peach-leaved cultivar on the RHS Trial. Green buds open to elegant cup and saucer-shaped doubles held on strong stems providing four weeks of flower. The linear foliage is green and healthy. 70cm.



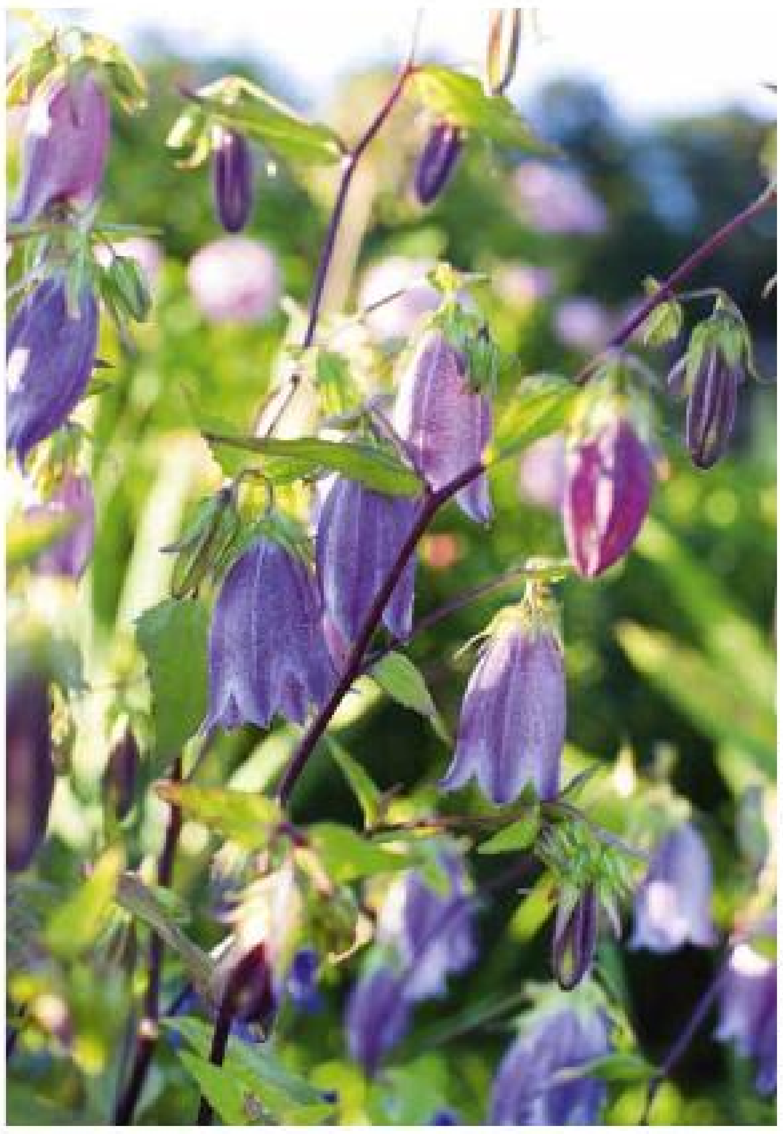
CAMPANULA LATILOBA
'HIDCOTE AMETHYST'
A pretty lilac-pink cultivar, which is more refined than typical clones. Grown at Hidcote and Kiftsgate in Gloucestershire. Lovely in bud and flower and almost certainly the best form of *C. latiloba* – although all forms will ramble into fresh ground. 1m. RHS H4. USDA 4a-9a.



C. *GLOMERATA* 'EMERALD'
A clustered bellflower named for its green foliage, with pale sky-blue flowers tinted in lavender pink. 'Caroline' is similar, but with pinker flowers. Both will stray and both can disappear. 60cm. USDA 3a-8b.

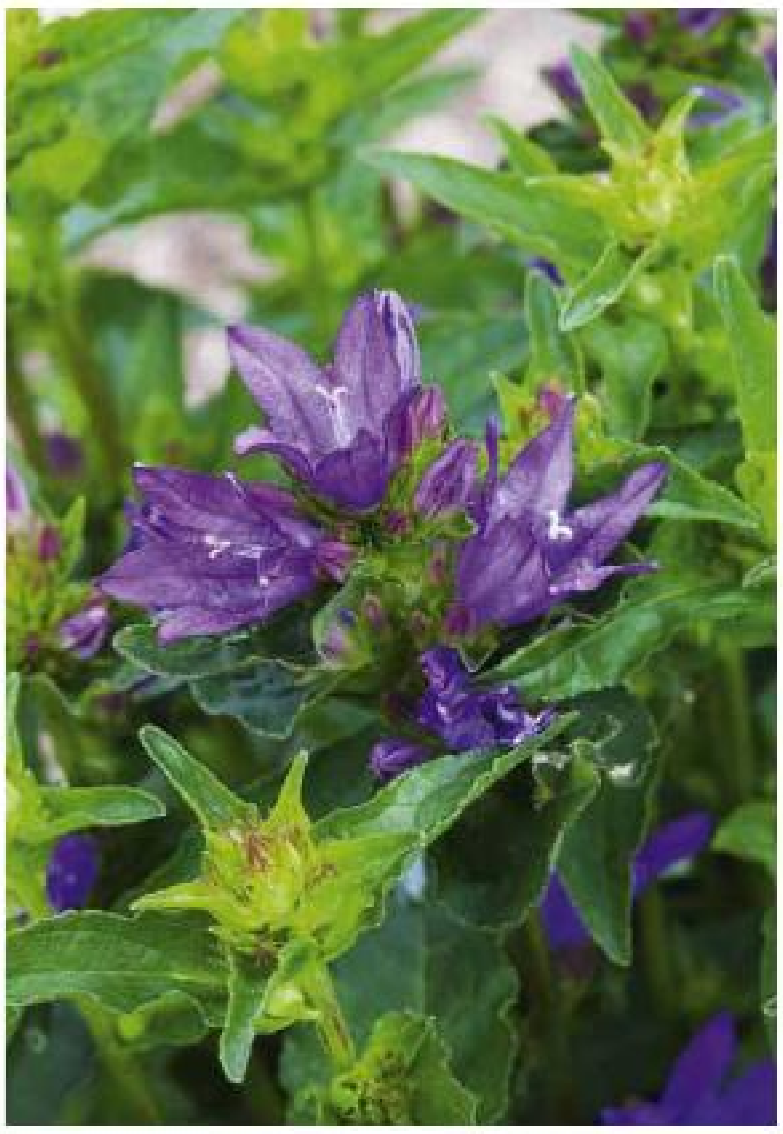


C. *TAKESIMANA* 'ELIZABETH'
The deep-pink long bell, selected by nurserywoman Elizabeth Strangman, is a brighter colour and the handsome heart-shaped foliage is often darkly veined. It can be invasive, but can also disappear. 60-90cm. USDA 4a-10a.



PERNILLA BERGDAHL / GAP PHOTOS

C. *PUNCTATA*
Found in Siberia, China and Japan, this produces long tubular bells in dusky pink. The foliage spreads and there never seems to be enough flowers. Dark ruby selections and doubles exist. 45cm upwards. USDA 4a-9b.



C. *GLOMERATA* 'FREYA'
A new selection made by Arie Blom from a population of *C. glomerata* seedlings. 'Freya' has tight clusters of purple flowers. Some think it's too compact, but it's rarely out of flower. 45 cm. USDA 3a-8b.

Cultivation

- Bellflowers are a mixed bunch, but they share several common traits. They tend to set copious amounts of fine seeds that can fly round the garden on a breeze. This causes problems for the gardener and the nurseryman as many named cultivars (such as *C. lactiflora* 'Prichard's Variety') have been replaced by inferior seedlings. Always deadhead.
- Spent stems should be cut down after flowering: this often encourages regrowth from the base, improving the plant's appearance.
- Campanulas have bad habits. Some shift about in the garden and move on to fresh ground. Some (such as 'Pink Octopus') are aggressive smotherers of other plants. Some form huge woody rootstocks and lose vigour within four years. This is especially true of *C. lactiflora*.
- Regular propagation from cuttings taken in spring (every third year) is essential if you spot woody, gnarled roots at the base, or sense a lack of vigour. The best border bellflowers, named forms of *C. lactiflora*, will fade away if left untended.
- Always remove spent flowers as they fade, for campanulas often die badly, especially the white flowered forms. This will promote more flower and prevent unwanted seedlings. Most are cut back to the base. Lactifloras are deadheaded like roses so that more flower appears lower down.
- Rust can be a problem, but normally plants recover in the following year.
- Chelsea chopping your plants by reducing them by a third in the third week of May can delay flowering, but generally plants are best left alone. The exception is *C. lactiflora* as this will still flower just as profusely.
- Some campanulas need staking and this must be done when growth is two-thirds complete. However, the floppy *C. lactiflora* cultivars and the wiry-stemmed *C. persificolia* can be supported by planting partners.

Where to see

Alan Bloom's Dell Garden at Bressingham has a fine collection of campanulas including alpines and border kinds. The Bressingham Gardens, Bressingham, Diss, Norfolk IP22 2AB. Tel 01379 686900, www.thebressinghamgardens.com

Where to buy

Avondale Nursery
Russell's Nursery, Mill Hill, Baginton,
Coventry CV8 3AG.
Tel 024 7667 3662,
www.avondalenursery.co.uk

The Bellflower Nursery
The Walled Garden, Langham Hall,
Langham, Bury St Edmunds,
Suffolk IP31 3EE.
Tel 07879 644958,
www.bellflowernursery.co.uk

Beth Chatto
Elmstead Market, Colchester, Essex
CO7 7DB. Tel 01206 822007,
www.bethchatto.co.uk

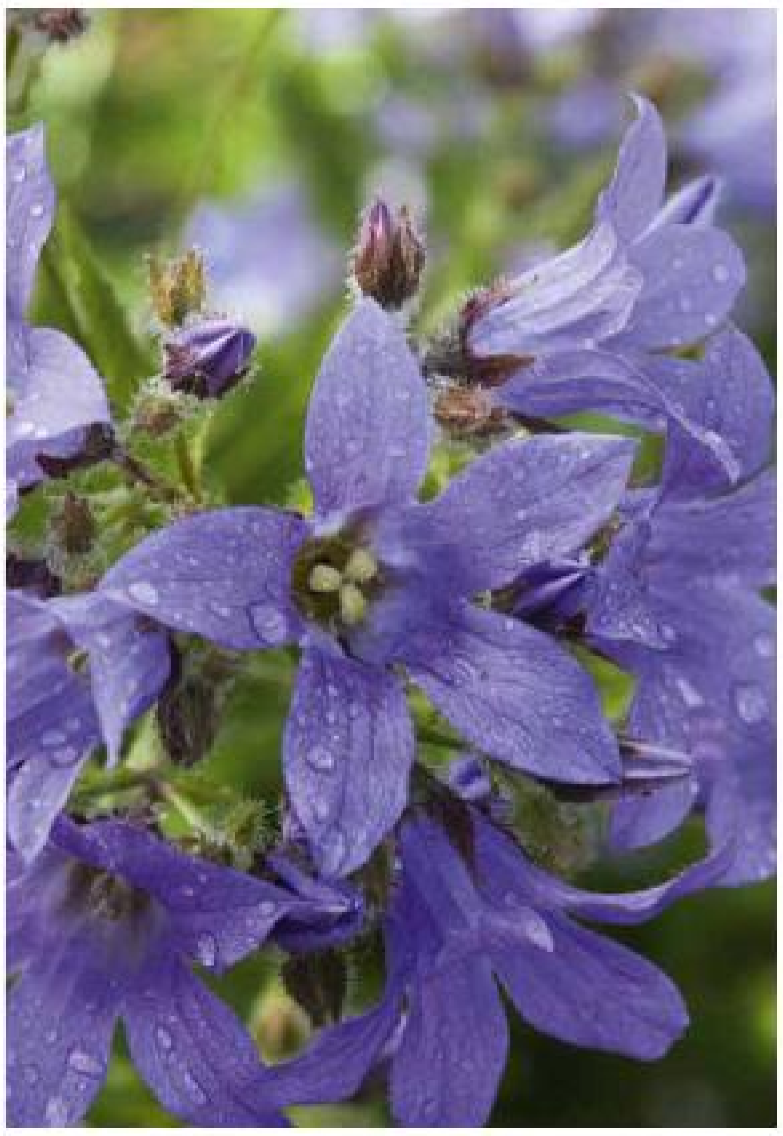
Cotswold Garden Flowers
Sands Lane, Badsey, Evesham,
Worcestershire WR11 7EZ.
Tel 01386 833849, www.cgf.net

Special Perennials
Yew Tree House, Hall Lane
Hankelow, Cheshire CW3 0JB.
Tel 01270 811443,
www.specialperennials.co.uk

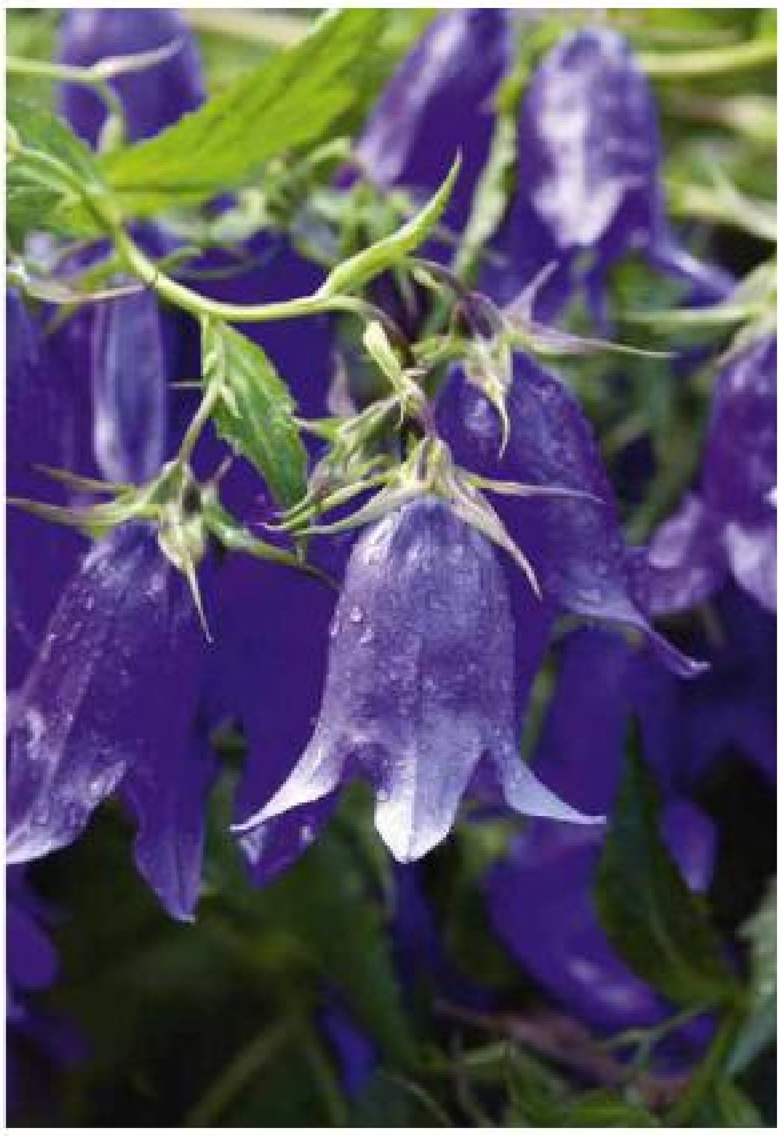
Woottens of Wenhaston
Blackheath, Wenhaston, Halesworth,
Suffolk IP19 9HD. Tel 01502 478258,
www.woottensplants.co.uk

World's End Nursery
Moseley Road, Hallow,
Worcester WR2 6NH.
Tel 01905 640 977,
www.worldsendgarden.co.uk

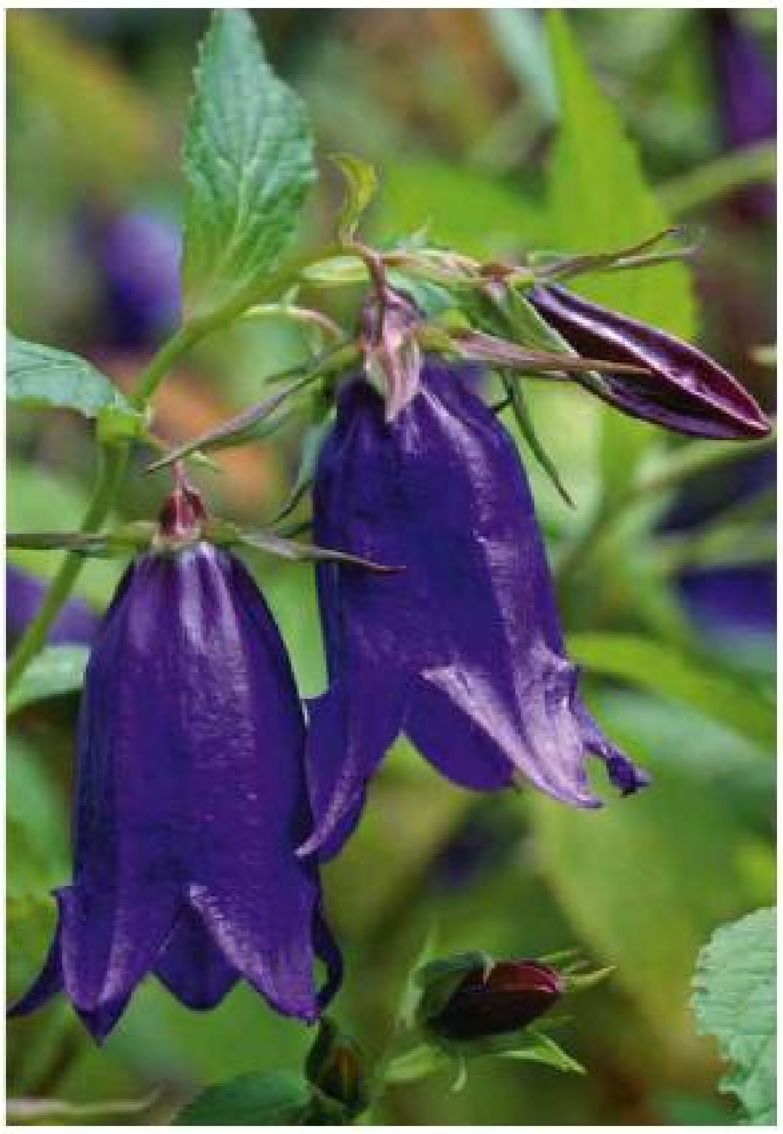
Many thanks to RHS Garden Wisley, where the photographs for this feature were taken.



***CAMPANULA LACTIFLORA* 'PRICHARD'S VARIETY'**
A mop of outward facing bells, rather phlox-like in appearance. Deadhead and propagate from cuttings every third year to retain vigour. Up to 1m. AGM. RHS H7, USDA 3a-9a.

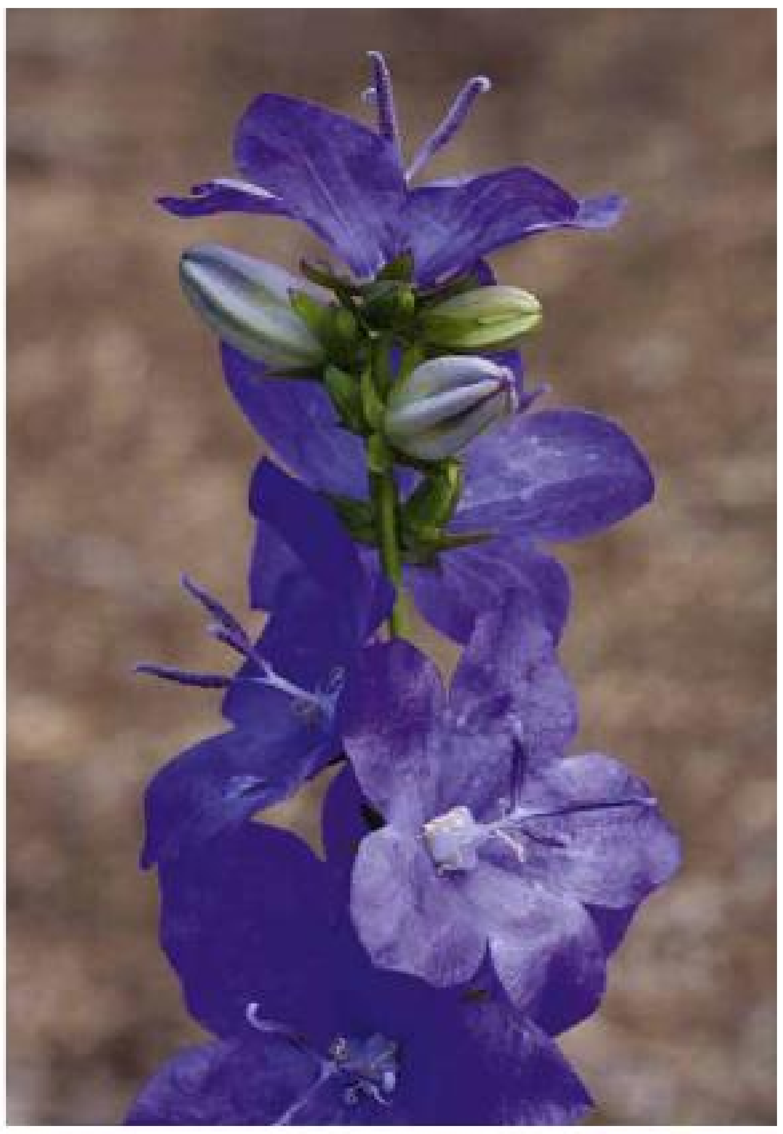


***C.* 'SARASTRO'**
A newer hybrid from the Sarastro Nursery in Austria, with 5cm-long dusky purple tubular bells and grey-green foliage. Showy, yet harder to place due to large flowers.
Up to 90cm. USDA 4b-8a.

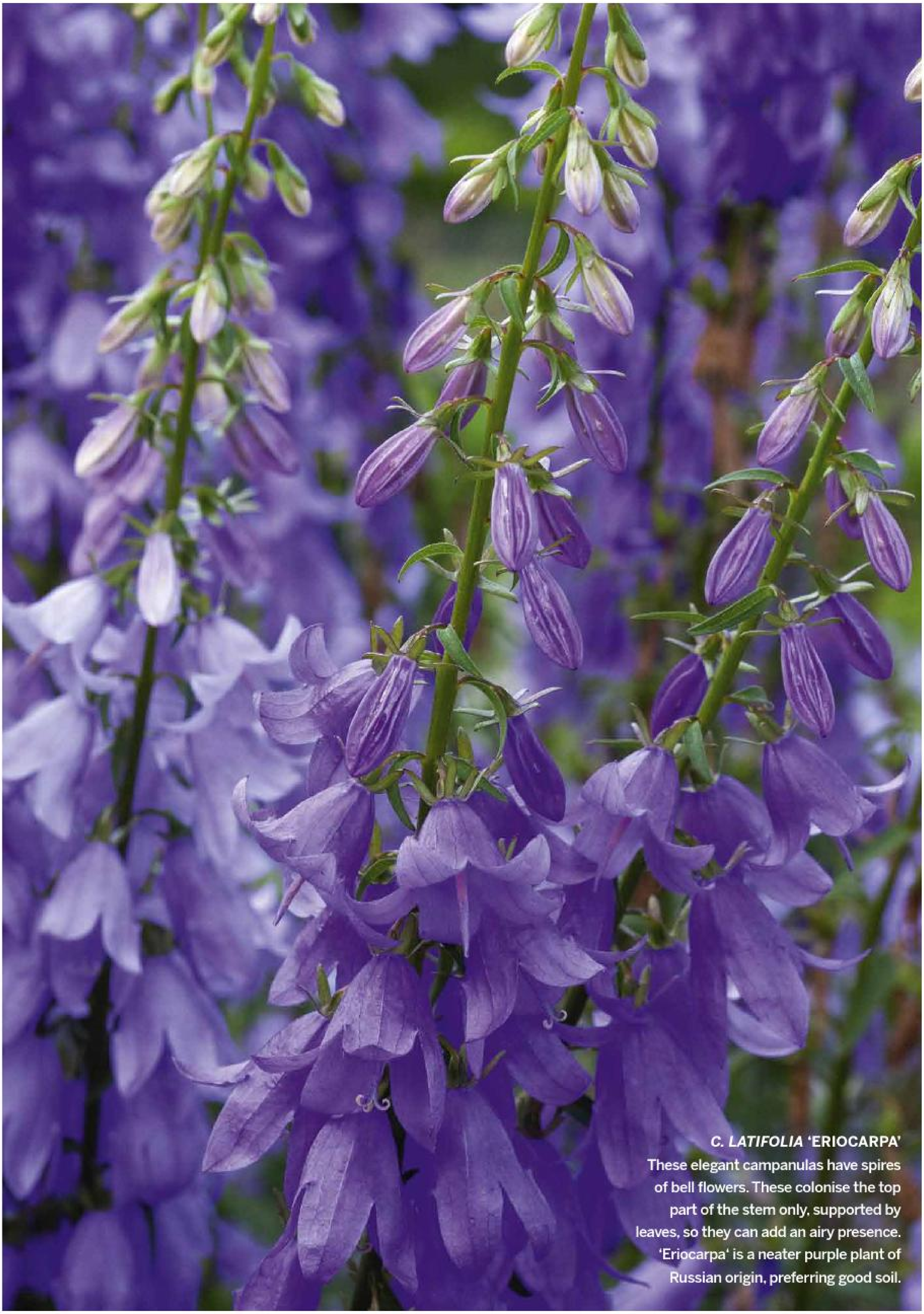


NIALL MCDIARMID/ ALAMY

***C.* 'KENT BELLE'**
A long-flowering hybrid (*C. takesimana* x *C. latifolia*) found at Elizabeth Strangman's Washfield Nursery between 1970 and 1980, with glossy deep-violet tubular bells and green foliage. 90cm. AGM. USDA 4b-8a.



***C. LATILOBA* 'HIGHCLIFFE VARIETY'**
Stalkless, lavender-violet saucer-shaped flowers held on stiff stems provide two to three weeks of colour in early summer. Can look ragged and coarse after flowering. 1m. AGM. RHS H7, USDA 4a-8b.



C. LATIFOLIA 'ERIOCARPA'
These elegant campanulas have spires of bell flowers. These colonise the top part of the stem only, supported by leaves, so they can add an airy presence. 'Eriocarpa' is a neater purple plant of Russian origin, preferring good soil.

Jim Buckland and Sarah Wain

This tireless team have given West Dean Gardens an enviable reputation

WORDS **PAULA MCWATERS** PORTRAIT **CHARLIE HOPKINSON**

Sarah Wain refers to her husband Jim Buckland as the Thin Controller. While she concerns herself with the minutiae of their day-to-day work, Jim is the man with the vision who keeps it all on track. For the past 22 years they have worked tirelessly to restore the once ailing gardens of West Dean, a college specialising in arts and crafts, and home to the Edward James Foundation. It now has an international reputation and the walled garden at its heart is as near perfection as you are likely to find, with row upon row of beautifully kept vegetables, 15 glasshouses and frames and walls adorned with trained fruit trees.

A resource for the college's students, the 100-acre gardens are also open to the public and the visitors' book is filled with compliments from 'a piece of heaven' to 'absolutely fabulous'.

"That's music to our ears," says Jim. "West Dean is all about craft, so we aim to complement that by displaying the art of gardening with the highest possible levels of craftsmanship." Last year, their efforts were rewarded with major awards for distinguished service to horticulture. Jim has become one of only 100 Royal Horticultural Society Associates of Honour, while Sarah received an Institute of Horticulture Award, held by no more than 50 people at any one time, and the Professional Gardeners' Guild Award for Loyal and Outstanding Service. "We're pleased to get awards recognising professionalism," says Jim. "For too long, gardening has been seen as a job for dimwits. For us, it's a business, a craft and an art. It has to be learned by doing it, year in, year out, developing skills that enable you to make judgements in all weathers and varying circumstances."

They met at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in 1980, both in their early 20s. Sarah was an assistant gardener in charge of the Australian collection, having travelled over from her native Melbourne after a three-year diploma in horticulture. Jim was a student on the Kew Diploma course, after working in parks departments and taking City and Guilds courses. "Halcyon days," says Sarah. "We had a fabulous time, sharing a huge interest in music and food."

When Sarah's visa ran out, she had to return to Melbourne and a lovelorn Jim soon followed her, proposing over the telephone only six weeks after she left. Five years later they were back in the UK, just as the BBC2 series *The Victorian Kitchen Garden* was airing, which started a groundswell of interest. "That opened our eyes," says Jim. "We thought, right, that's what we want to do."

Fortunately, they landed a job together, restoring a private garden in Hampshire for an owner with high ambitions and a flexible budget. "It was excellent experience for our work at West Dean," says Sarah. "Without that we wouldn't have been nearly as comfortable about making the decisions we've made here."

In many ways, they're a dream team. Jim credits Sarah with being the technical horticulturist: "An expert grower and propagator with a great sense of colour and an eye for putting plants together," while Sarah cites Jim's prowess as a manager and visionary. "Jim is the long-term planner. He knows how it's going to look in two, five, ten years' time; he can see it all, from dust to beauty."

Time spent with Jim and Sarah reveals them to be full of fun and yet briskly no-nonsense at the same time. They are always laughing and frequently finish each other's sentences. Both are formidably well organised, working from daily lists that Sarah delights in crossing through with a fat red pen. They manage seven staff and 40 volunteers and love passing on the skills they have acquired.

West Dean's year is punctuated by shows that Jim and Sarah have pioneered, most famously their now much-copied Chilli Fiesta (9-11 August this year), which attracts crowds of 20,000-plus. "We can lay claim to starting the chilli phenomenon in Britain," says Jim. "In 1995 you couldn't get much beyond a cayenne pepper in catalogues, so Sarah had to scour the globe for varieties. Now we grow 250."

The gardens are still their main focus: they fell in love with them when they first saw them and they love them now. "Continuity is key," says Jim. "When you're fortunate enough to be in one place for so long, you grow to know it intimately and you intuitively know what needs doing." □

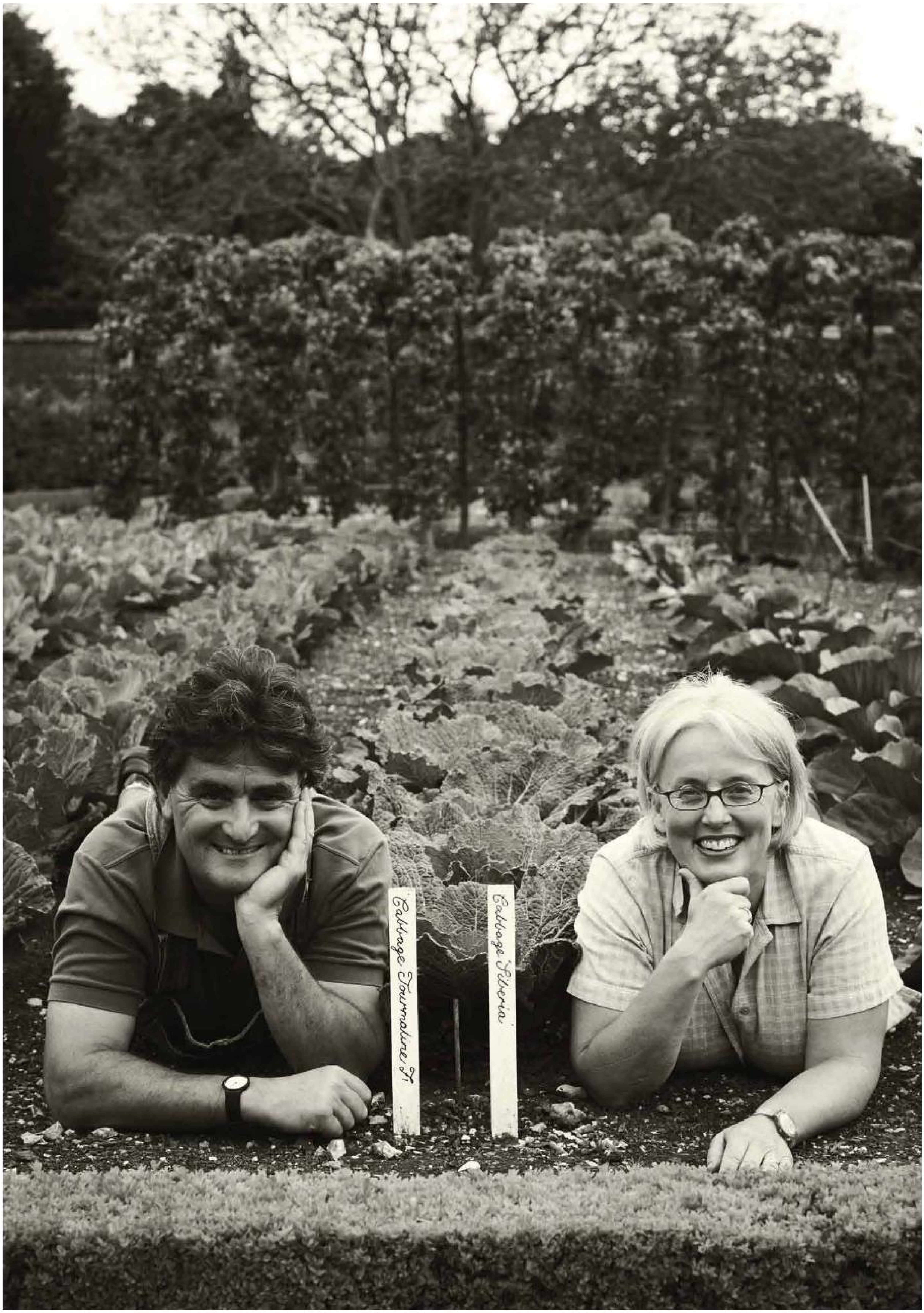
USEFUL INFORMATION

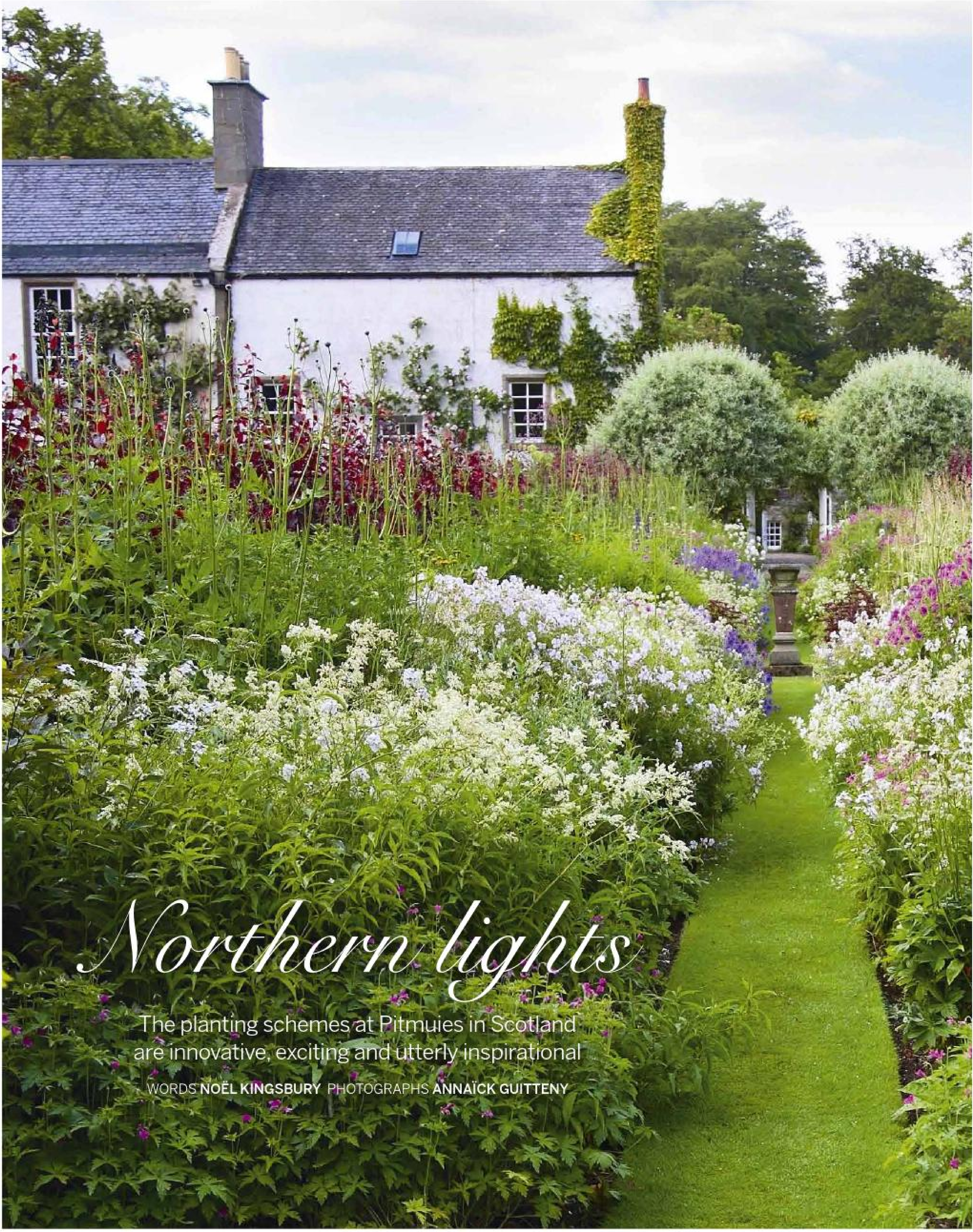
West Dean, Nr Chichester, West Sussex PO18 0RX.
Tel 01243 818210. www.westdean.org.uk

NEXT MONTH

US public garden designer Lynden Miller.

We can lay claim to starting the chilli phenomenon in Britain

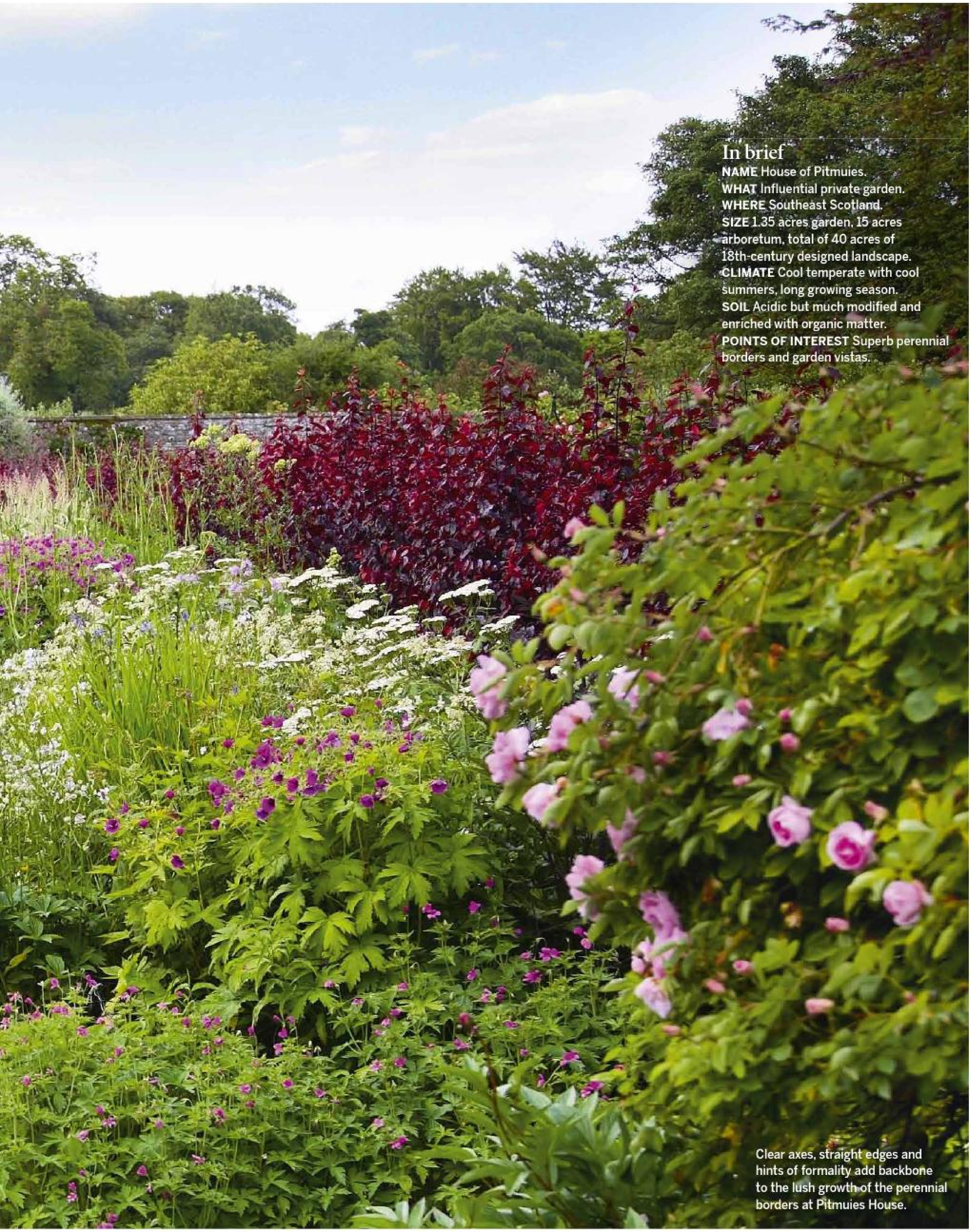

Cabbage Tourmaline F1
Cabbage Siberia



Northern lights

The planting schemes at Pitmuies in Scotland are innovative, exciting and utterly inspirational

WORDS **NOËL KINGSBURY** PHOTOGRAPHS **ANNAÏCK GUITTENY**



In brief

NAME House of Pitmuies.
WHAT Influential private garden.
WHERE Southeast Scotland.
SIZE 1.35 acres garden, 15 acres arboretum, total of 40 acres of 18th-century designed landscape.
CLIMATE Cool temperate with cool summers, long growing season.
SOIL Acidic but much modified and enriched with organic matter.
POINTS OF INTEREST Superb perennial borders and garden vistas.

Clear axes, straight edges and hints of formality add backbone to the lush growth of the perennial borders at Pitmuies House.

Gardens in Scotland are undeniably different. It's not just the climate and the luxury of the long growing season, which often makes for good gardening, but also a difficult-to-define sense of difference, a freedom to innovate and experiment.

The garden at the House of Pitmuies has a reputation as one of the best in Scotland and it has proved very influential. There is a long history of horticulture here; below the garden is a 25-acre arboretum, much of it planted at the end of the 19th century. Of particular note, and much-photographed, is a century-old *Acer griseum*, a tree known as 'paperbark maple' for its peeling cinnamon-coloured bark.

This is a garden that takes time to reveal its secrets. Visitors enter on a path alongside the kitchen garden, so tend to explore that first. Beds of vegetables and fruit bushes are framed by borders of dwarf box, *Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa', while occasional dahlias and abutilons hint at a more exotic taste, and a modest-sized greenhouse entices with a well-grown *Passiflora* x *exoniensis*, the foliage and pendant deep pink flowers of which fills much of the roof space.

Exploring Pitmuies involves following paths that lead to a series of often quite narrow spaces, giving the garden a delightfully intimate character. The layout is not dissimilar to many mid-20th-century gardens – a relatively formal framework but filled with burgeoning planting, so there are some clear views from one area to another. At times it feels as though you are walking through a floral chasm; the border on each side may be only two metres wide, the path just a metre. Well-staked perennials rear up on each side, frequently planted so densely that there is a lot of interesting interweaving.

As with many Scottish gardens, cool summers ensure that perennials do not dry out, and the lushness of spring often remains for many months. There is another factor too: the light. The long days of May, June and July encourage the growth of those perennials that do not also need heat. The impact on later-flowering, warmth-loving plants such as asters is not great but on earlier-flowering ones it can be dramatic. "Have you ever seen delphiniums at the Arctic Circle?" a Swedish gardener once asked me. "They look like they are made to grow there." The delphiniums at Pitmuies are indeed very good, even though they are still a considerable distance from the Arctic Circle. The garden has had a fine display of them since the 1920s and when current owner Marguerite Ogilvie came here in 1966, she continued to grow them. Her masterstroke was to plant a hedge of the purple-leaved plum, *Prunus cerasifera* ▷

Plants for northern latitudes or higher altitudes

Perennials such as ***Aruncus***, ***Astrantia***, ***Delphinium*** and ***Thalictrum***, which do not need warm nights but benefit from the long days of midsummer, can grow expansive and lush. Plants that need shade further south, such as ***Actaea***, ***Hosta***, ***Rodgersia*** and ***Tricyrtis***, can be grown in full sun if the soil is reasonably moist. Be aware that some species considered difficult further south can grow like weeds in these climes. Think ***Meconopsis***, ***Nomocharis*** and late-flowering gentians such as ***Gentiana sino-ornata***. If winter minimum temperatures are not too low, many southern hemisphere perennials – such as ***Agapanthus***, ***Crocosmia***, ***Dierama***, ***Kniphofia*** and ***Libertia*** – flourish in the long growing season. Finally, if wind exposure is a problem, but not low temperatures, many Mediterranean and southern hemisphere plants do surprisingly well. For example, ***Cistus***, ***Hebe*** and ***Lavandula***.

Top left *Astrantia major* 'Ruby Wedding', red pincushions on dark stems, relishes this climate.

Top right Planting along the double herbaceous borders includes the cream *Aconitum* 'Ivorine'.

Bottom left Hostas, here punctuating a border, are very effective foliage plants at Pitmuies.

Bottom right Cerise *Rosa* 'De Resht' and silver-grey *Eryngium planum* mingle with *Astrantia major*.

The vigorous shrub rose 'Céleste' arches down over a flowerbed.

▷ 'Pissardii' behind them so that their blue spires would be complemented by the dark red-purple background. The plum trees in fact form a double hedge, enclosing a herbaceous border. Interestingly, when walking down the central path of the double border, the plum appears completely different, with leaves glowing red as they are backlit by the low-angled sunlight. Unsurprisingly, purple plum hedges are now a feature of many other Scottish gardens.

"One of the first things I needed to do was to supply the house with cut flowers," Mrs Ogilvie explains, "and I have always tried to make the garden more part of the house, and house more part of the garden. For example in the double border you see from the window of the drawing room I tried to use blue and turquoise and yellow, the same colours as in the room." The purple plum hedge was part of her early planting: "It was important to create height in the garden with trees." Another example is a row of *Prunus serrula* further down the garden, carefully pruned in early years, so that their eventual shapes are balanced and even. With better quality foliage than most plums and cherries they form a distinct backdrop for a rose garden and shade for a lush narrow border of ferns, hostas and rodgersias.

This now well-established garden continues to inspire gardeners, both in Scotland as well as those further south. Its beautiful, lush, often dense planting scheme, should encourage us all to weave and intermingle our perennials with confidence. □

USEFUL INFORMATION

House of Pitmuies, Guthrie,
By Forfar, Angus DD8 2SN, Scotland.
Open 1 April – 31 October, 10am–5pm.
Tel 01241 828245.
Website www.pitmuies.com

Five other gardens to visit in southeast Scotland

Branklyn Garden Alpines and many rarities.
Dundee Road, Perth, Perthshire PH2 7BB. Tel 0844 493 2193, www.nts.org.uk

Cambo Estate One of the most exciting gardens in Britain for lovers of perennials.
Kingsbarns, St Andrews, Fife KY16 8QD. Tel 01333 450054, www.camboestate.com

Glendoick Gardens & Garden Centre A huge range of rhododendrons and azalea.
Perth PH2 7NS. Tel 01738 860260, www.glendoick.com

Kellie Castle Much praised as a romantic garden.
Pittenweem, Fife KY10 2RF. Tel 0844 493 2184, www.nts.org.uk

St Andrews Botanic Garden A fine vintage rockery and plant collection.
Canongate, St Andrews, Fife KY16 8RT. Tel 01334 477178, www.st-andrews-botanic.org

9 of the best plants at Pitmuies

1 *Astrantia major*
Growing to around 80cm, this is ideal for light shade. Astrantias are very successful in areas with cool summers. USDA 5a-9b†.

2 *Nectaroscordum siculum*
A bulb that flowers reliably from year to year. Growing to a metre in height, it does best in full sun. RHS H4, USDA 5a-9b.

3 *Eryngium alpinum*
The eryngium that looks least like a thistle. The flower heads are striking even as they fade. Makes an excellent cut flower. Grows to 1m high. Likes full sun. RHS H4.

4 *Stachys byzantina*
One of the most reliable silver-leaved plants. Best in sun, the foliage grows to around 30cm; the flower spikes somewhat taller. USDA 4a-10b.

5 *Lilium martagon*
In most of the UK this grows best in light shade, making a good companion for aquilegias and astrantias. Grows up to 1.5m tall. AGM*. RHS H4, USDA 3a-10a.

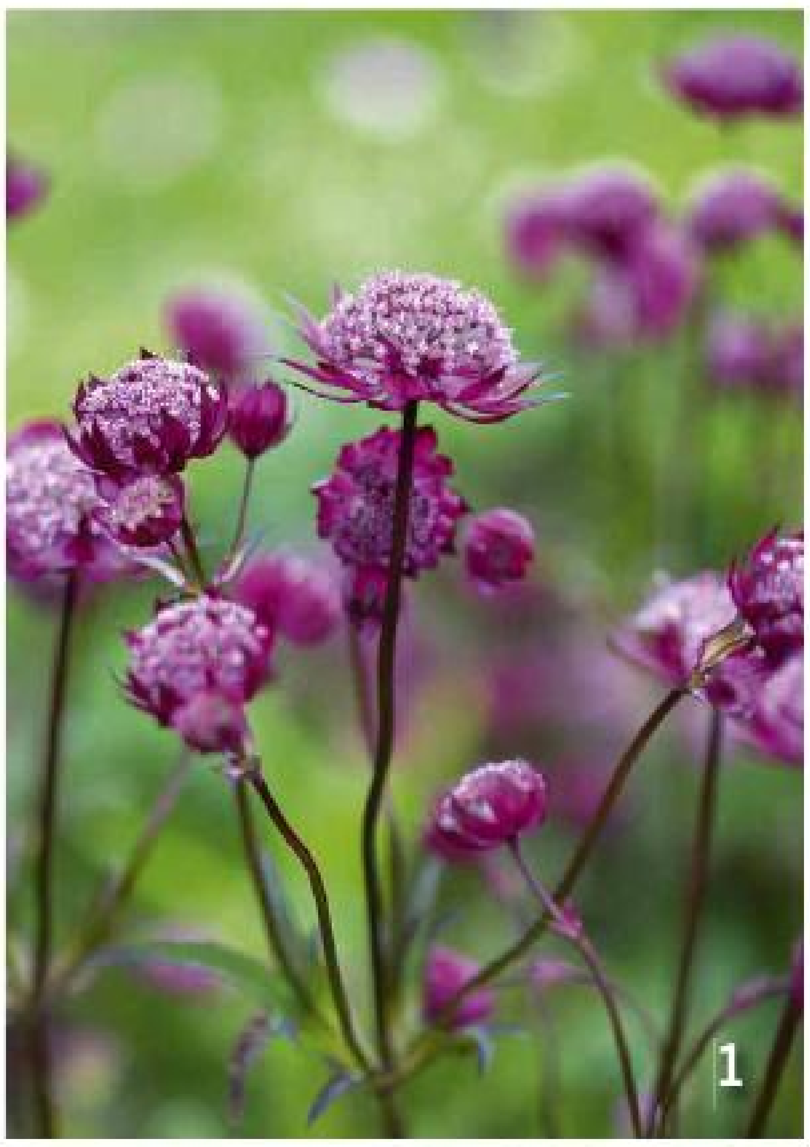
6 *Cornus controversa* 'Variegata'
Very useful as a focal point. Growing to 8m, it prefers moist but well-drained soil and shelter. AGM. USDA 4a-8a.

7 *Prunus cerasifera* 'Pissardii'
Much used, and deservedly so. Forming a tree to 10m tall, it can be pruned, for example to make a hedge. Easy and vigorous, it flourishes in sun on most soils.

8 *Pyrus salicifolia* 'Pendula'
This small tree can be clipped into shapes or allowed to follow its natural inclination to grow into a rounded form. Reaches up to 12m tall. Likes sun and most soil types. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 4a-7b.

9 *Aconitum* 'Ivorine'
The best of the cream-flowered monkshoods, this flowers earlier than most. Grows to 80cm. Needs rich, moist but well-drained soils in sun or light shade.

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.
†Hardiness ratings given where available.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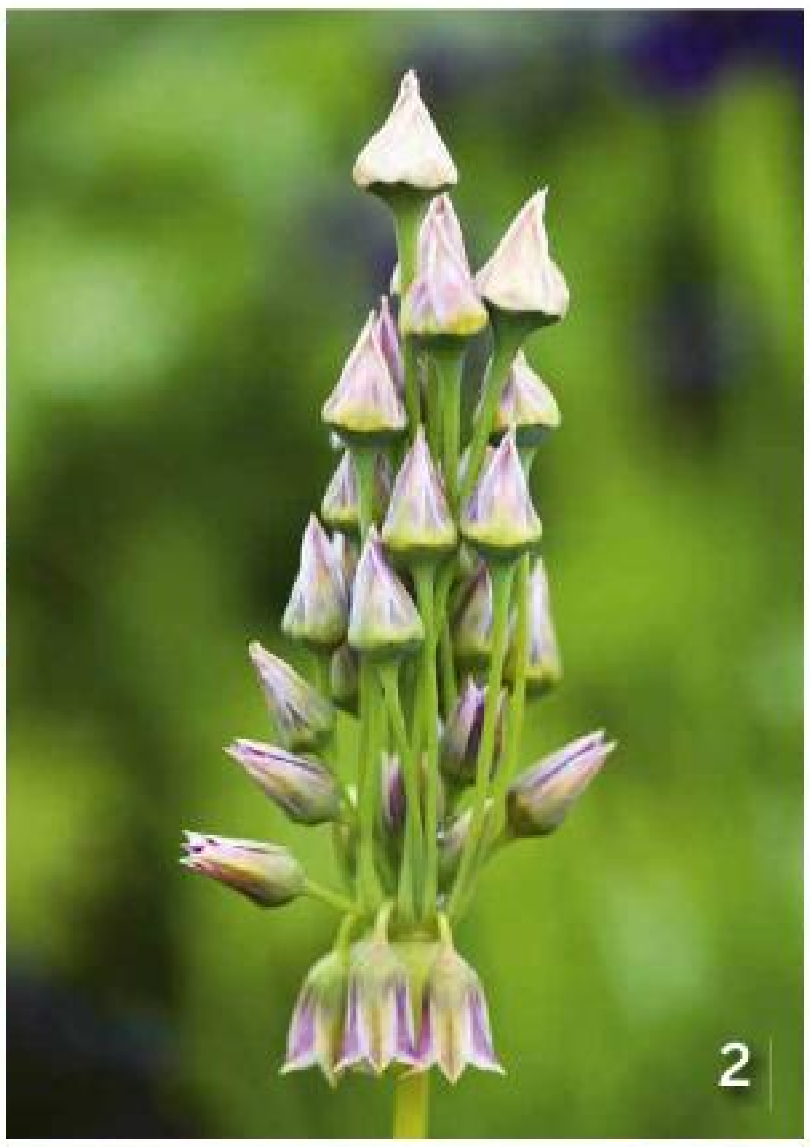
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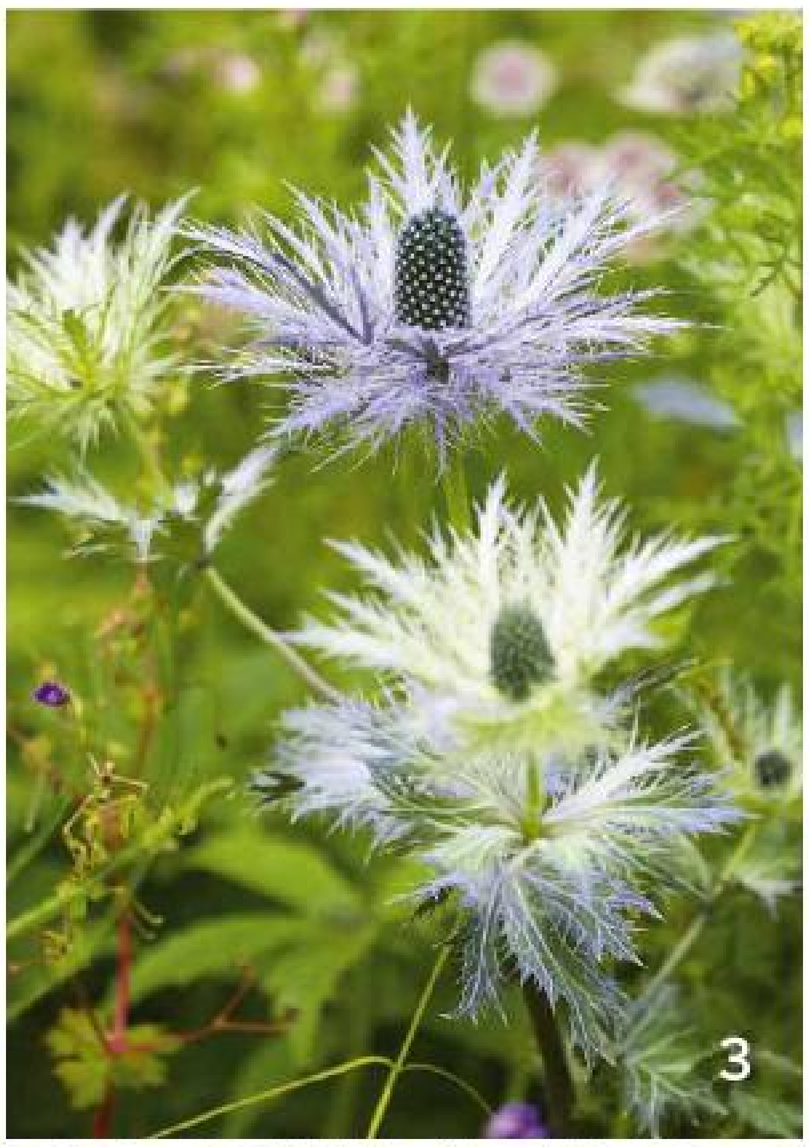
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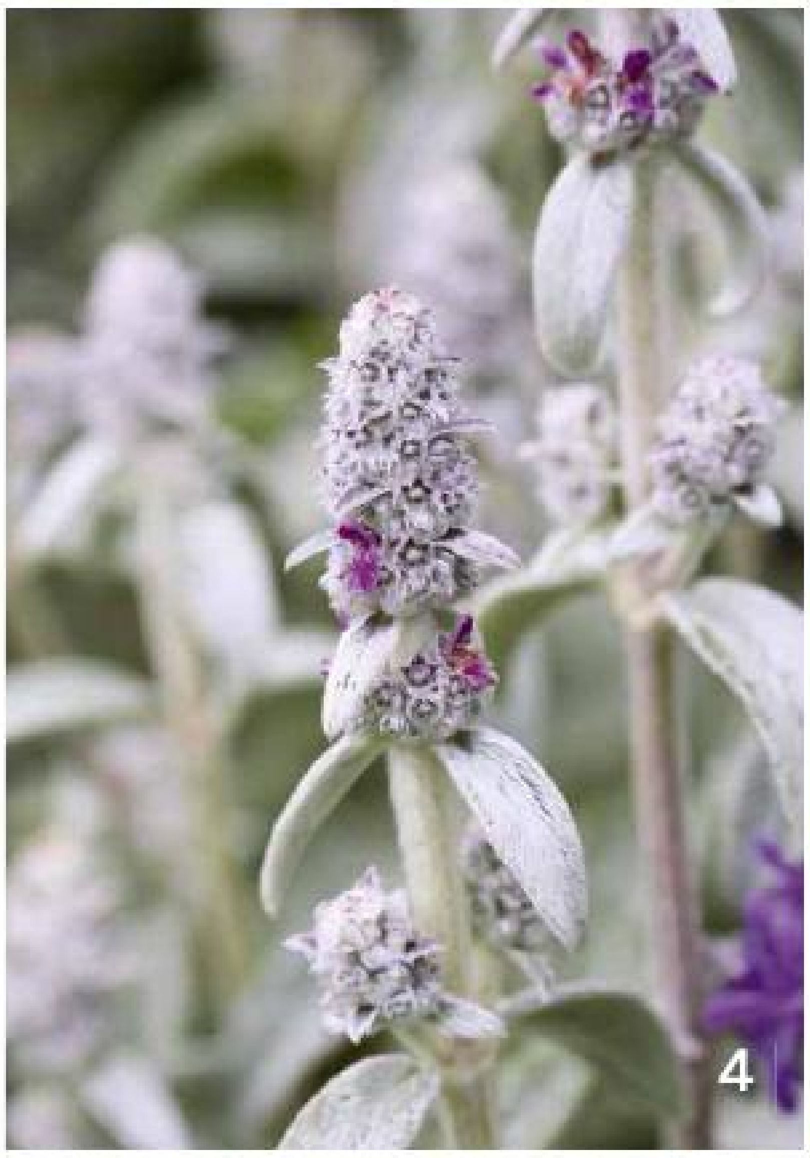
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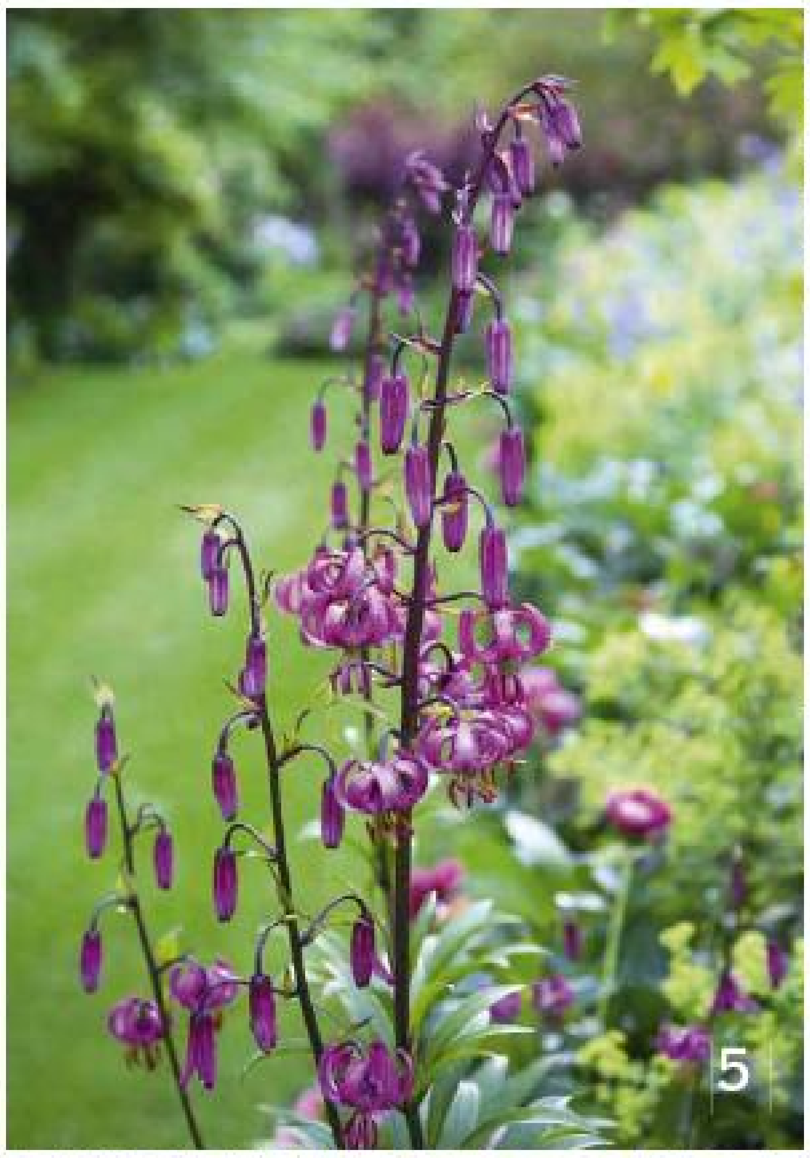
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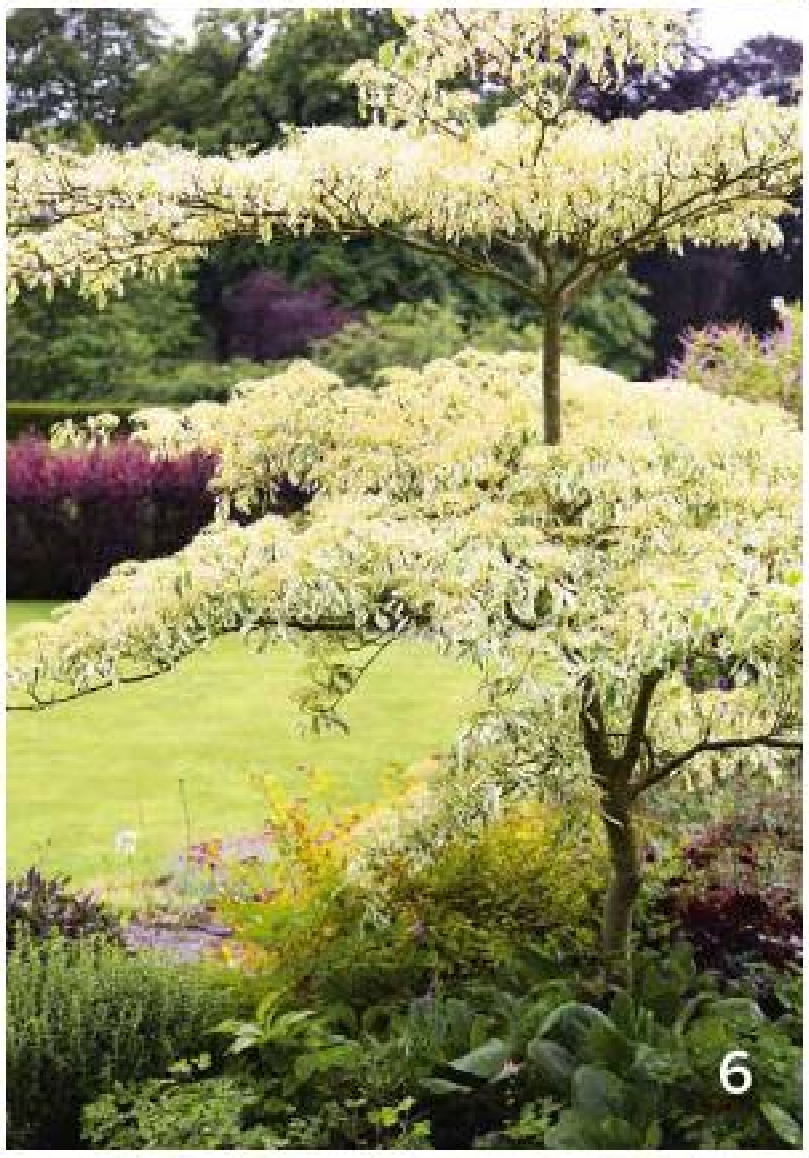
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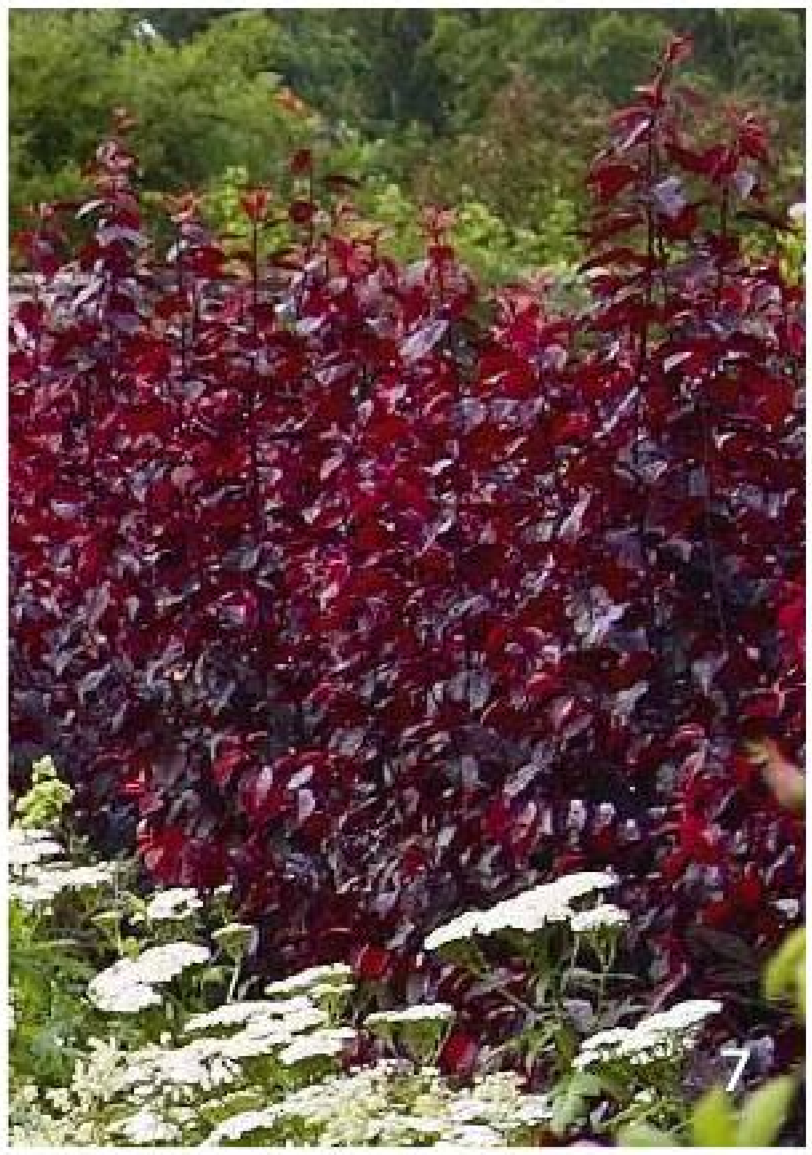
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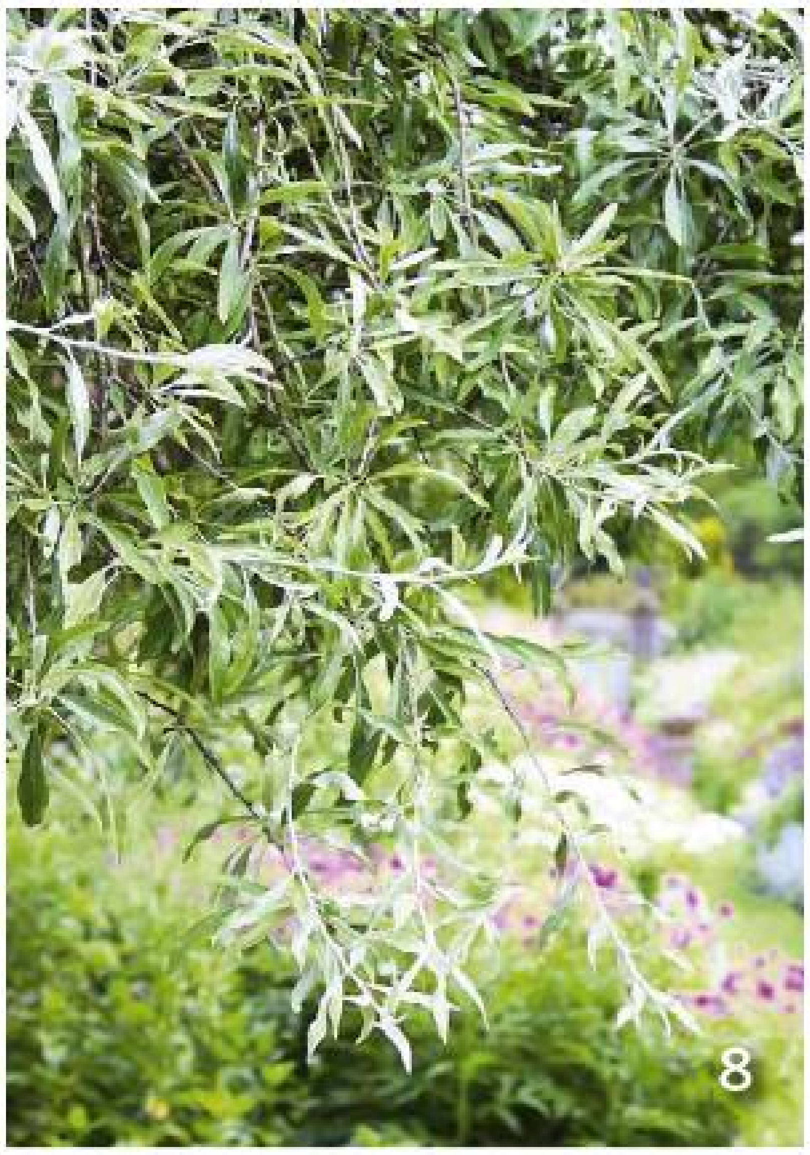
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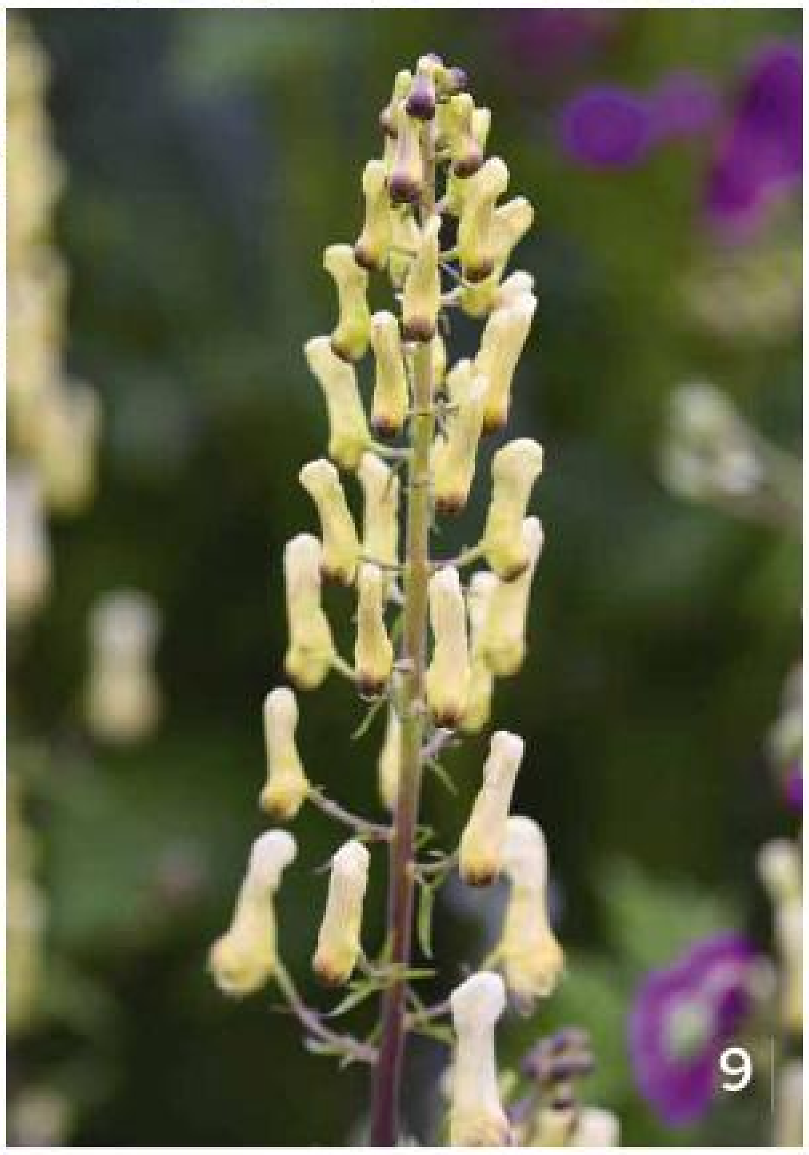
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Tried and tasted

The Real Seed Catalogue offers an extraordinary selection of heritage varieties for kitchen gardeners

WORDS TOM PETHERICK PHOTOGRAPHS JASON INGRAM

When I arrive at the home of Real Seeds in Newport, Pembrokeshire, boxes of vegetables and bits of drying plant matter are stacked everywhere. I am hardly through the door before Ben Gabel arrives with an armful of shaggy parasol mushrooms, intended for dinner, while his partner Kate McEvoy launches into a discussion of chenopods. We move on to the virtues of obscure grains such as quinoa *Chenopodium ambrosioides*, Aztec broccoli *C. berlandieri*, and the amaranths.

It is clear from early on that this place is about more than seeds. Ben and Kate have strong views on food production, the scourge of hybrid seeds, energy production and how to run a company – their own has no shares, being a balanced partnership between the owners, the staff and the customers. Their mission has been distilled to finding and supplying seeds of the best vegetable varieties for home gardeners who are growing organically, and to teach them how to save seed at home. There are definitely no hybrids here. Everything comes from open-pollinated seeds, which for people like me who believe in co-creating with nature, is a sure sign that Ben and Kate are authentic.

The two could not be clearer about their purpose and the method behind it. The front of the catalogue declares openly that the customer's time will not be wasted with descriptions of varieties that are not to Ben and Kate's liking. They have grown and tasted almost everything themselves and as such offer only what they know is good in terms of taste, ease of growing and also seed saving.

By the time we are ready to travel the short distance from the house to the land where the growing is done, I am further taken with the ethos behind the project. We have discussed the 'huge influence' of Joy Larkcom, talked of 'genius loci' and how this ▷

Why gardeners should save their own seed

Despite clearly effecting a reduction in profits for Real Seeds, they are still passionate about encouraging gardeners to save their own seed. Indeed, Ben and Kate are adamant that home seed saving benefits everyone. The primary reason is because you have control over the process, so you know what you are getting. You know the parent plants and you are able to select according to your own requirements – be they taste, size, colour or simply instinct. In a natural system such as this, F1 hybrids appear overbred and artificial, and have no place.

Ben and Kate's large vegetable plot includes climbing beans, peas, tubers, salad crops and edible flowers.

'Sutherland' kale is proven to withstand attack from aphids, cabbage white caterpillars, ravenous goats and 70mph freezing sleet

▷ sense of place has such an effect on plant growth, and also of the importance of talking to gardeners about their experiences and their favourite varieties. Ben points out that historically, home seed saving has made plant breeders out of all gardeners. The backbone of the work of Real Seeds is to continue to improve those varieties.

Vital as these things are, the quality of the product is what matters to the customer. Increasing demand has led to the construction of a multi-span polytunnel and a barn for drying and processing. Small wonder, because beyond the rabbit-proof fence on the growing fields lie row upon row of vegetables. There are climbing beans, peas, tubers of all descriptions, salad crops and edible flowers, all beloved of the growers and their clients. Most are unusual and some an acquired taste, but that is the nature of the game, especially with plants that gardeners might be coming across for the first time.

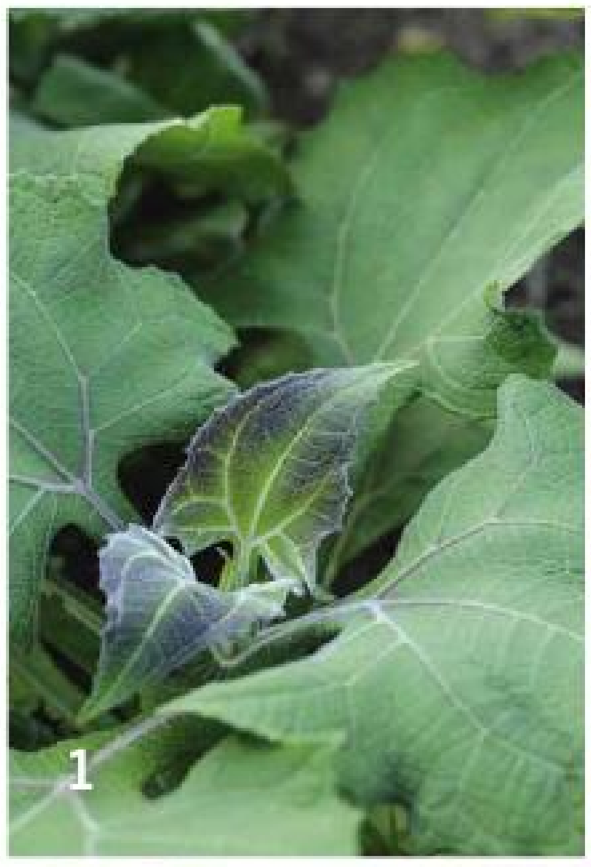
Typical in this department is 'Fat Baby' achocha (*Cyclanthera pedata*). Listed in the 'Unusual Cucumber-Relatives' section of the catalogue, it looked to me for a moment like the chou-chou plant that is commonly found all over Asia. It is in fact a South American vine that produces mini cucumber-like fruits that are excellent raw when young and even better when fried. They have a sweet taste just like green pepper. The curious little oxalis foliage of oca (*Oxalis tuberosa*) is also noticeable, as are the massive spade-shaped leaves of yacon (*Smallanthus sonchifolius*), the second of the two South American tuber stalwarts.

And then there are ordinary honest-to-goodness vegetables, similarly trialled and selected for garden worthiness and taste. Such an example is the 'Sutherland' kale, proven to withstand attack from 'aphids, cabbage white caterpillars, ravenous goats and 70mph freezing sleet', most of which it would have encountered in its crofting homeland in northern Scotland.

Whatever your fancy as both grower and cook, it is the declared intention of Real Seeds to help you out. The seed packets give extended cultivation notes backed up by cooking instructions, while the website is crystal clear on techniques for saving seed of all the different plant groups. That Ben and Kate bring such energy to their work is of inestimable value to the gardening community. It will surely stand Real Seeds in good stead for many years to come. □

USEFUL INFORMATION

The Real Seed Catalogue, PO Box 18, Newport, near Fishguard,
Pembrokeshire SA65 0AA. **Tel** 01239 821107.
Website www.realseeds.co.uk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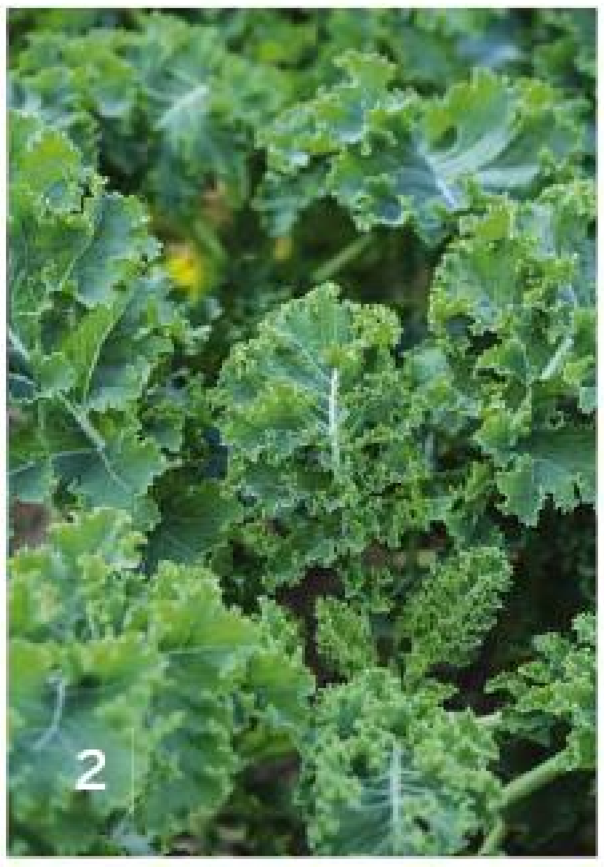
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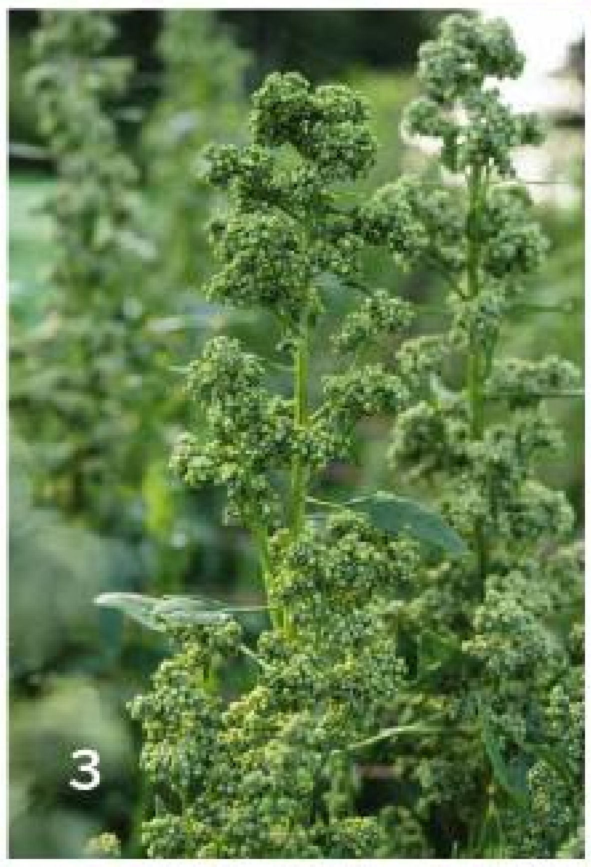
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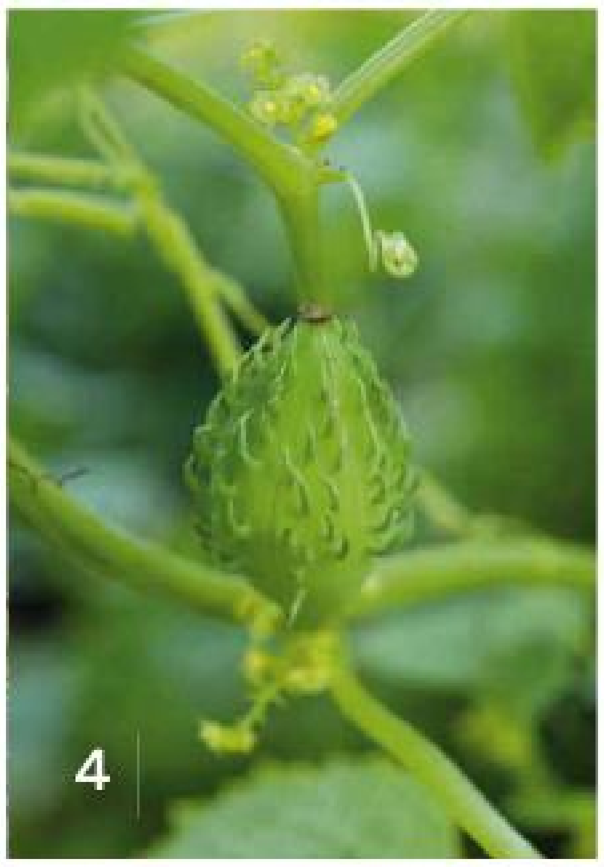
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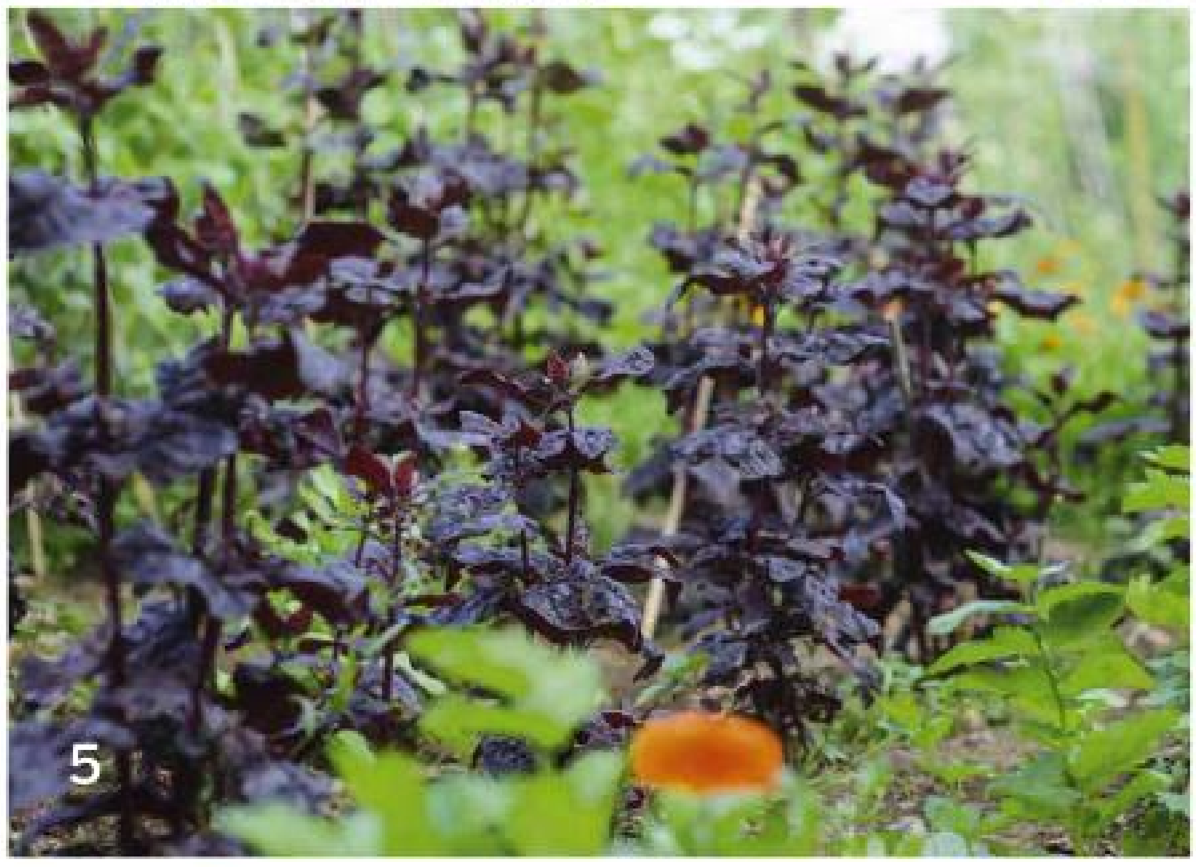
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Vegetables to try

1 Yacon Reasonably drought tolerant so watering is only required in very dry conditions through August and September.

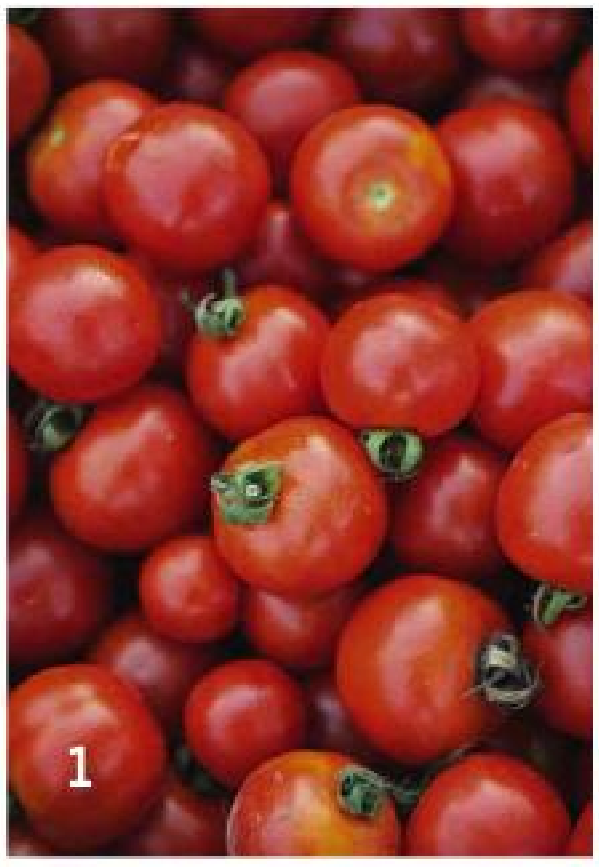
2 'Sutherland' kale A cultivar from the north of Scotland that can withstand most of the usual problems that trouble brassicas.

3 Quinoa This high-protein grain plant from South America is easy to grow and therefore becoming popular with gardeners. The cultivar 'Rainbow' has been specifically bred for the home market.

4 'Fat Baby' achocha Although this is a cucumber relative it is delicious raw or cooked, highly productive and easy to grow.

5 Red orach An underrated salad plant that is delicious raw or cooked. Red varieties brighten up the garden through the summer and autumn.

A scythe works well in Ben's style of mixed plantings. **Below** Kate checks marigold seeds as they ripen.



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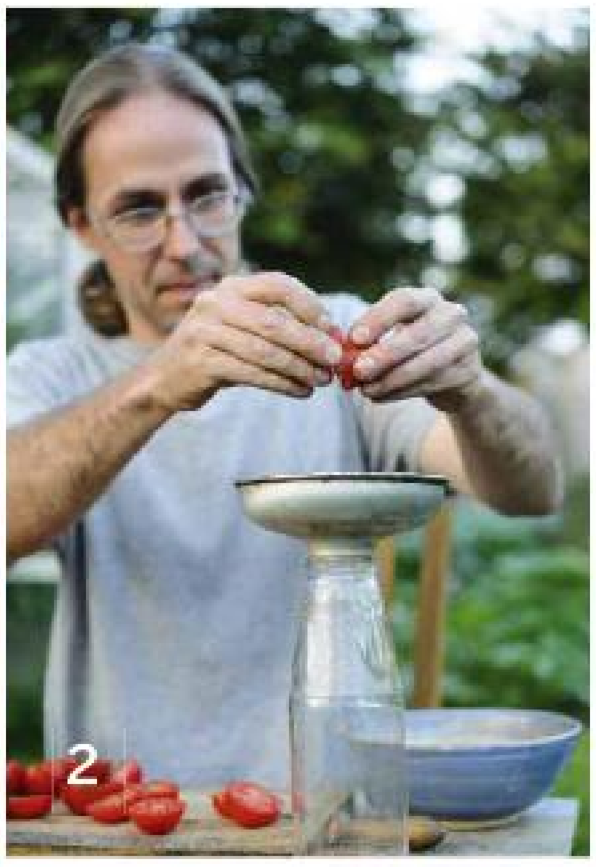

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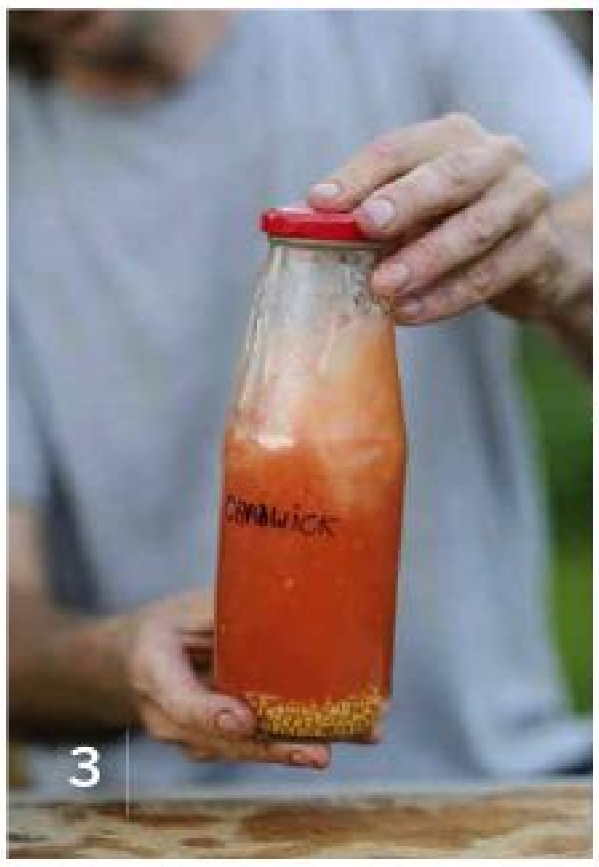

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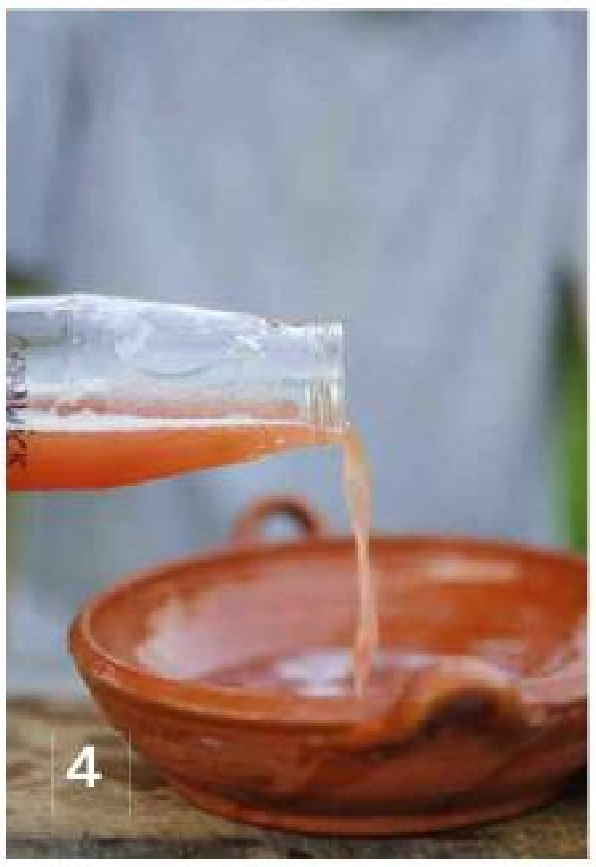

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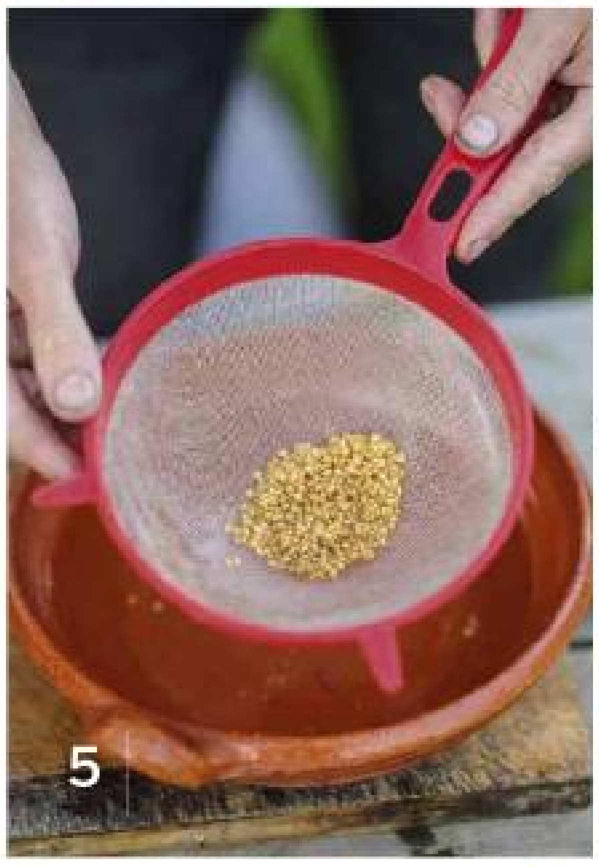

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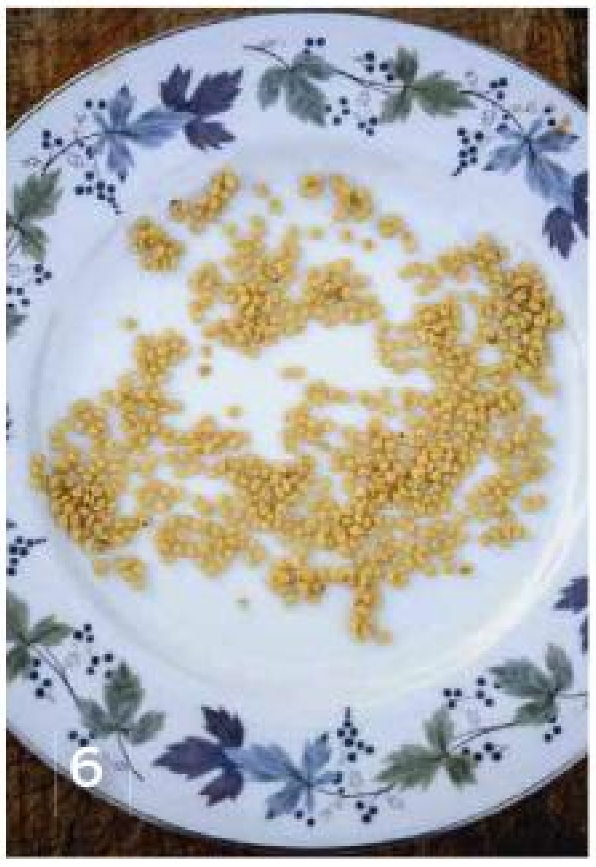

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Saving tomato seed

Let the tomatoes reach full ripeness before harvesting (**1**). Most varieties will not cross-pollinate. When your tomatoes are ready, squeeze the seeds into a jam jar (**2**) and leave it in a warm room to ferment for three days. Add water to the jar and mix well (**3**). The good seeds will sink to the bottom. Discard the floating seeds and rinse the good seeds in a sieve under the cold tap (**4**). Shake off as much water as possible (**5**) before tipping the seeds on to a china plate (**6**). Leave to dry in the warm but out of direct sunlight. When fully dry, separate them from each other and store in a cool dry place.

In brief

NAME The André Eve Rose Garden.
WHAT Garden showcasing hundreds of ancient and modern roses available from the adjacent nursery.
WHERE Pithiviers-le-Vieil, in the Loiret region of north-central France.
SIZE 3/4 acre.
CLIMATE Continental mild microclimate with long hot summers (average 28°C) and cool winters.
SOIL Alkaline limestone, with 60-70cm of new top soil.
POINTS OF INTEREST Celebrates the breadth and diversity of the rose in all its colours, habits and perfumes.

Tall foxtail lilies *Eremurus robustus* and blue *Scutellaria scordiifolia* with light pink *Rosa* 'Tausendschön' and the slightly darker *R.* 'Monsieur De Mourand'.

By any other name

André Eve has turned his penchant for collecting and breeding old-fashioned roses into a spectacular garden and extraordinary nursery

WORDS JACKY HOBBS PHOTOGRAPHS CLIVE NICHOLS

In the small French village of Pithiviers, a surprising garden cossets over 500 different cultivars of rose. The André Eve Rose Garden is a unique collection of ancient and modern roses from all over the world, growing together in profusion and harmony. Its creator and namesake is octogenarian rose collector and aficionado André Eve. He is famed for breathing life back into the faded popularity of old roses, '*les roses anciennes*', which he refers to as 'Grandmother's Roses'. He is also credited with breeding over 30 new roses, further developing and enhancing the already extensive rose family.

In 1957, André Eve was apprenticed to the late, great French rose breeder Marcel Robichon, who taught him his trade. Completely smitten with the genus, André began seeking out and collecting rare and forgotten specimens. These were for pleasure and experimental breeding rather than commerce. Years later they were to form the basis of his unique commercial enterprise.

In 1980, André bought his first home, together with a derelict walled garden, giving him the opportunity to finally bring together his 300-strong private rose collection. The timing coincided with the closure of the nursery where he was employed, releasing him to create an extraordinary rose garden.

Within two years the plot was unrecognisable, a vaguely cottagey styled French rose garden. It became instantly frequented by rose connoisseurs who coveted the largely unobtainable roses.

Demand was such that in 1983 André started up his own venture, 'André Eve Roses Anciennes', dedicated to the repopularisation of old and forgotten roses and the promotion of modern and newly created cultivars.

Pivotal to the success of the new venture was the creation of a nursery garden, showcasing the breadth of roses on offer and mimicking the success of his private garden. The André Eve Nursery Garden was hewn from poor, undeveloped land just outside Pithiviers, adjacent to the dedicated nursery plot. The sole purpose of the layout and design was to showcase the catalogue of 500 roses. Plenty of backbreaking groundwork and extensive soil improvements were necessary before planting could begin.

Specimens requiring semi-shade are positioned near existing trees, which also support many of the rambling roses. Climbers were provided with a network of wooden pergola walkways and arches designed exclusively for their display. Shrubs and bush roses languish in the ample, curvaceous beds tucked in with secondary perennials including geraniums, nepetas, eremurus and bearded irises, which serve only to enhance the roses. Ribbons of velvety lawn form pathways, which snake languorously around the garden, leading you out to inhale the sweet perfumes and admire the rose-clad vistas.

André's passion is for ancient roses. "They possess ephemeral, feminine qualities in their form, colouration and fragrance," he explains. In breeding he strove to capture these qualities while combating characteristically fleet appearance and poor resilience to modern disease. He also works unaided by pesticides. Species roses, bourbons, centifolias, damasks, gallicas and noisettes were key to his new developments, together with older cultivated varieties, gathered or gifted from all over the world. The garden brings together all these roses, individually defined by fragrance type, hue, pattern, form and habit.

At your feet spill ground cover specimens. André's white, fragrant *Rosa* 'Auberge de l'ill'

This collection is a rose breeder's source of inspiration and essential tool kit

(2002), is a victorious repeat-flowering specimen for shady margins.

Shrub and bush roses occupy the middle ground, dominated by 19th-century grand dames, pink Bourbon roses *R.* 'Reine Victoria' (1872) and *R.* 'Madame Pierre Oger' (1878). André dedicated new roses to modern madames; his first creation, *R.* 'Sylvie Vartan' (1969) after the French singer, *R.* 'Sophie' (1972), after his eldest daughter and *R.* 'Miss Lorraine' (2000) after Miss France 1998.

Towering climbers and ramblers add density and height to the garden structure. Of note are repeat flowering roses; *R.* 'Ornement des Bosquets' (1860), a deep pink noisette and *R.* 'Marietta Silva Tarouca' (1925), a pale pink floribunda. There are reverent displays of Robichon's fragrant hybrid tea climbers; coral pink *R.* 'Orientale' (1946) and *R.* 'Odette Joyeaux' (1959), a big double powder-puff of a rose launched just after André became apprenticed. His own introduction, *R.* 'Red Parfum' (1972) is exceptional, a potent, rich and velvety red climber that successfully repeat flowers.

André's greatest love is for ramblers, hitherto overlooked in France as they commonly lack perfume and tend to flower once. "I adore their enthusiasm, their carefree abandon and revel in their profusion, confusion and unfettered joy," André proclaims. *R. banksiae* (1811), may only flower once but it flowers first, heralding the season with an array of tiny white, violet-scented pompoms. André's rambler *R.* 'Suzon' (1994) carries new, distinctive yellow-rimmed apricot blooms. He partners these single-flowering specimens with late-flowering clematis to help disguise their early departure. Triumphantly André's *R.* 'Roville' (2002) repeat flowers, with masses of large pink blooms. André dismisses the rambler's persistent lack of perfume as relatively unimportant because of its inherent loftiness.

This outstanding, all-encompassing collection is a rose breeder's source of inspiration and essential tool kit. With André's retirement, the critical rose gene pool has been passed on to the Nursery garden's new owners, Jérôme Rateau and Guy André, who continue the legacy of rose breeding as well as tending and developing this spectacular garden. □

Turn the page for André Eve's favourite roses ▷

André Eve's cultivation advice

The best way to choose a rose is to visit a rose or nursery garden in full bloom, enabling you to choose a specimen with a colour, form and perfume suited to your taste and situation.

At point of sale check which rootstock the selected rose is grafted on to, ensuring it is suitable for your soil type.

Plant in full sun, preferably in a sunny situation, unless otherwise specified, having prepared the site with rich organic matter, away from other established shrubs and trees.

Plant bare root roses from October to March except if there is a severe frost.

Roses grown in pots can be planted anytime, again avoiding severe frosts.

Accompany with perennials that serve only to enhance the beauty of the rose. Good choices are perennial geraniums, delphiniums, heucheras, hostas, *Aegopodium*, asters, grasses, nepetas and eremurus.

Top A grass path weaves past dusky pink *R.* 'Julie De Mersan' and orangey *R.* Westerland (= 'Korwest').

Middle *R.* 'Pink Cloud' and *R.* 'Roville' climb over an archway while *R.* 'Belle Au Bois Dormant' lines up in front.

Bottom The pergola showcases vibrant pink *R.* 'Dentelle De Bruxelles'.

The garden showcases over 500 roses, including *R.* 'André Brunel' in the foreground and *R.* 'Magna Carta' at the back.

André Eve's favourite roses

1 *Rosa* Jardin de Granville (= 'Evanrat')

GOOD FOR REPEAT FLOWERING

Promoted by Christian Dior. The blooms of this repeat-flowering, bush rose exude youthful femininity; its voluptuous, silky soft, fragrant flowers delicately blush pink.

2 *R.* Burgundy Ice (= 'Prose')

GOOD FOR REPEAT FLOWERING

An extraordinarily coloured bush rose, violet-hued-burgundy, rich in fragrance, with velvety flowers that bloom all summer long. A mutation of the famous *Rosa* 'Iceberg'.

3 *R.* 'Queen Victoria'

GOOD FOR SCENT

A beautiful old bourbon shrub rose in rich pastel pink. It repeat flowers and is incredibly fragrant. Lower growing than some roses at 1-1.5m, but masses up well and is also good in planters or containers.

4 *R.* x *centifolia* 'Cristata'

GOOD FOR SCENT

Also known as Chapeau de Napoleon. Possesses a multitude of deep pink, heavily perfumed petals. Sadly a single-flowering shrub rose. AGM*. RHS H7, USDA 4a-9b.

5 *R.* 'Rose de Resht'

GOOD FOR SCENT

A fine-fragranced, old Portland shrub rose dating back to 1840. Petal-packed, fuchsia pink blooms that mature to rich magenta.

6 *R.* 'Suzon'

GOOD FOR CLIMBING TREES

Stunning large bouquets of simple flowers in pink that have a striking bright yellow centre bordered in deep rich apricot. A vigorous, but not repeat-flowering, rambler.

7 *R.* 'Constance Spry'

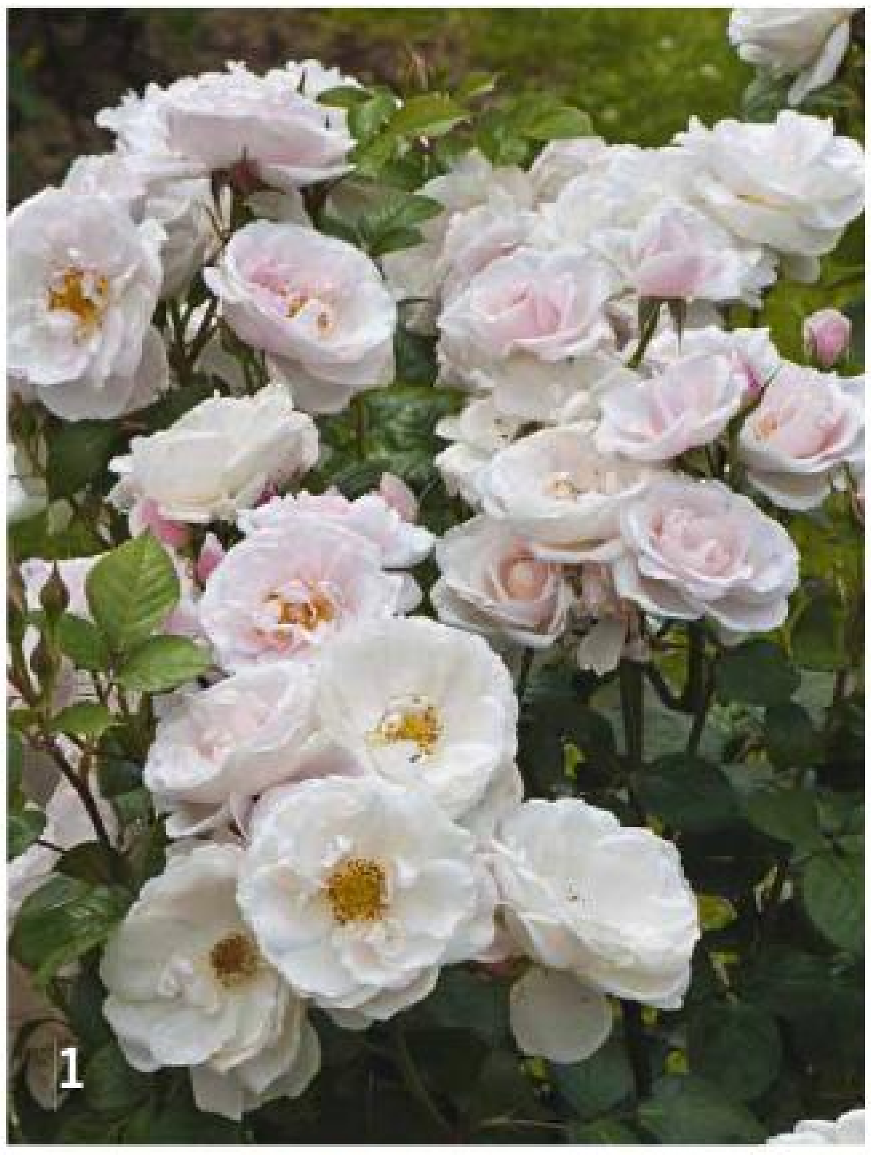
GOOD FOR SCENT

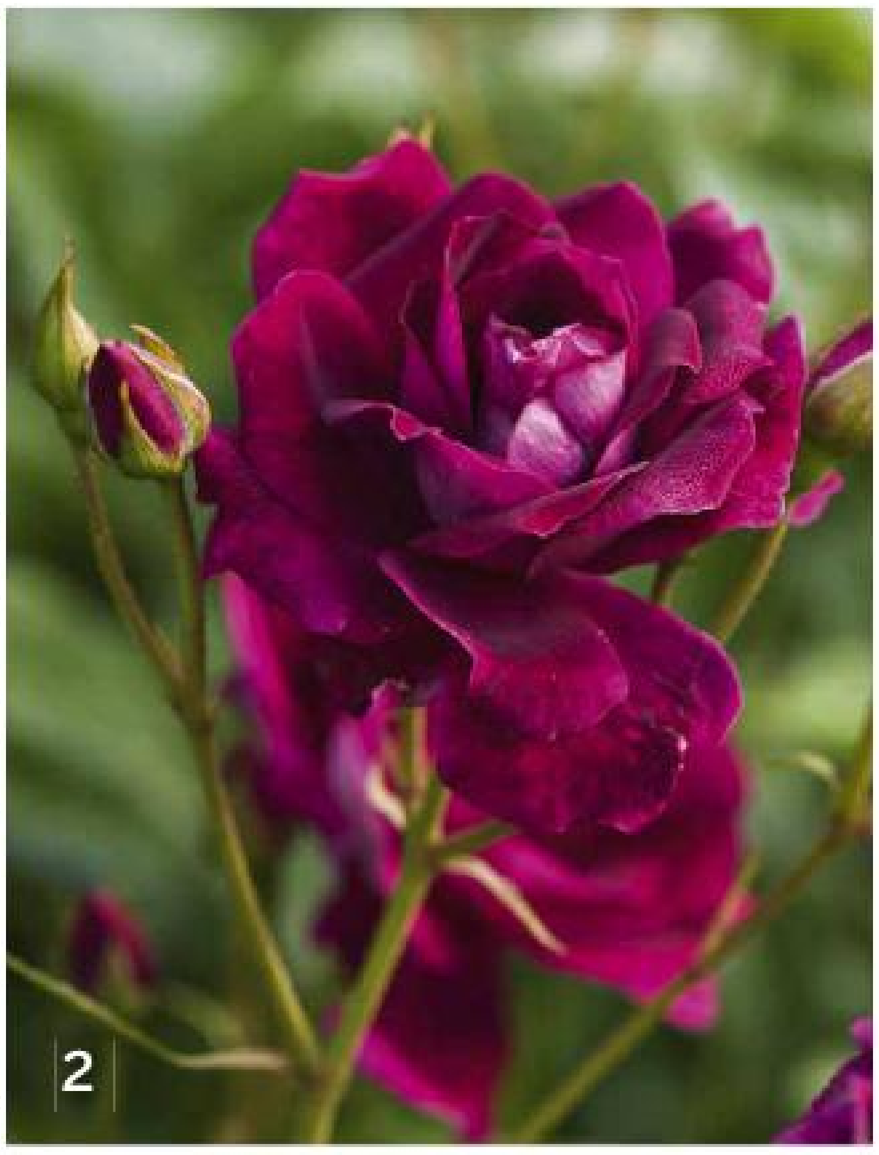
David Austin's first rose is a masterpiece. This vigorous climber can also be grown as a shrub with huge myrrh-drenched roses in a single but spectacular flowering.

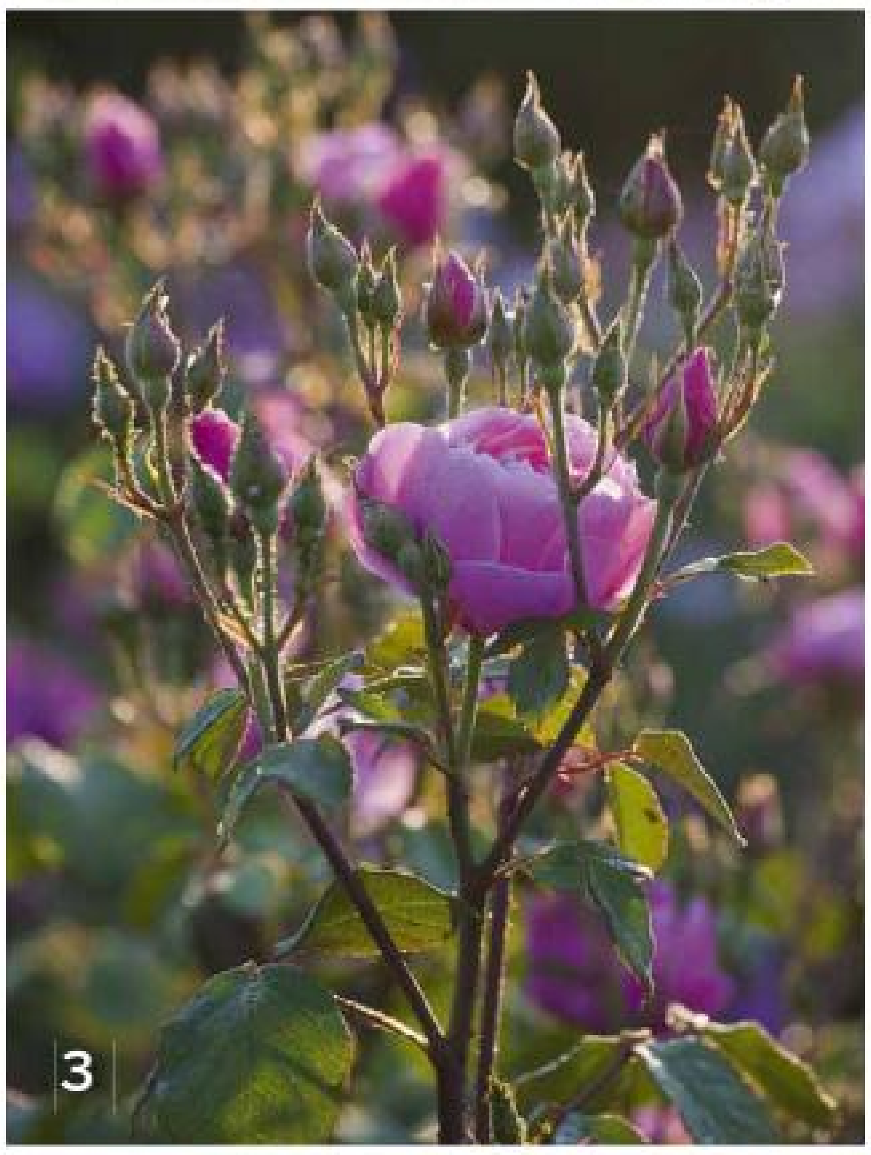
8 *R.* 'Roville'

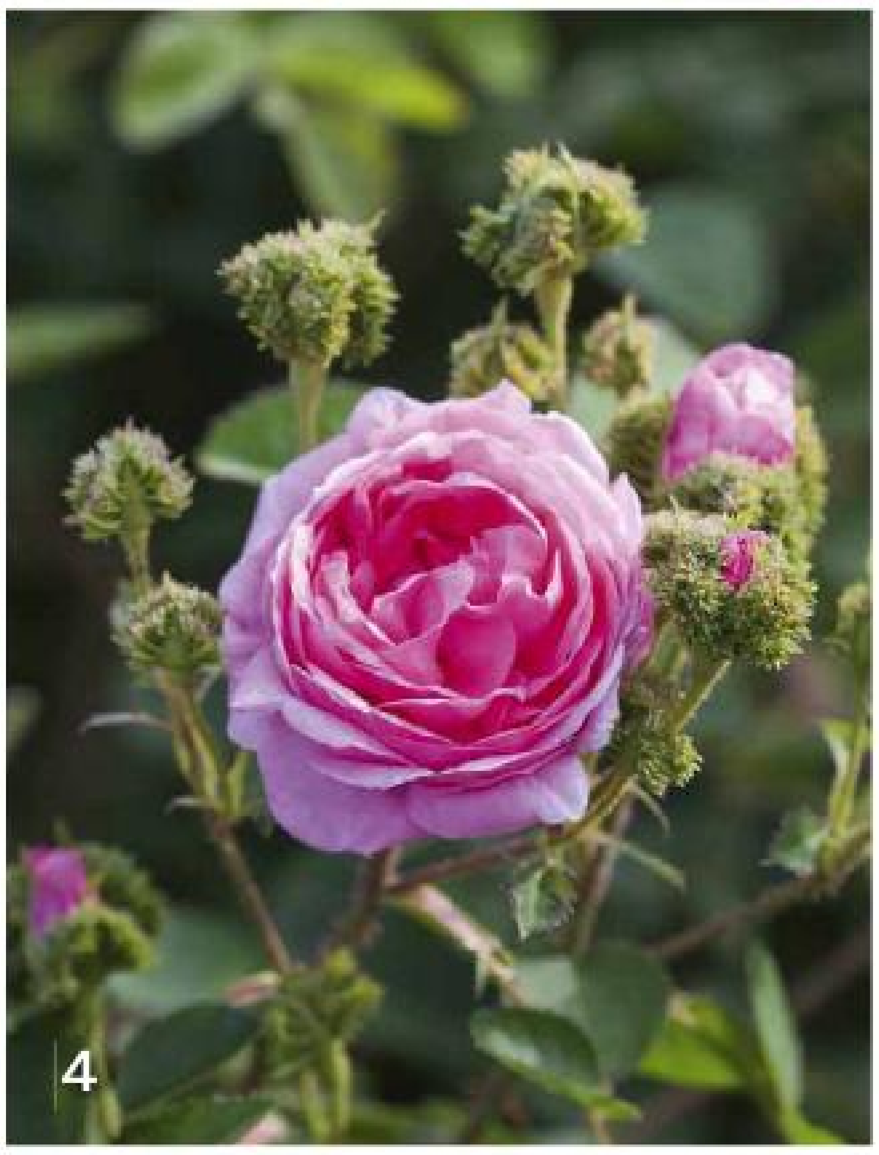
GOOD FOR CLIMBING TREES

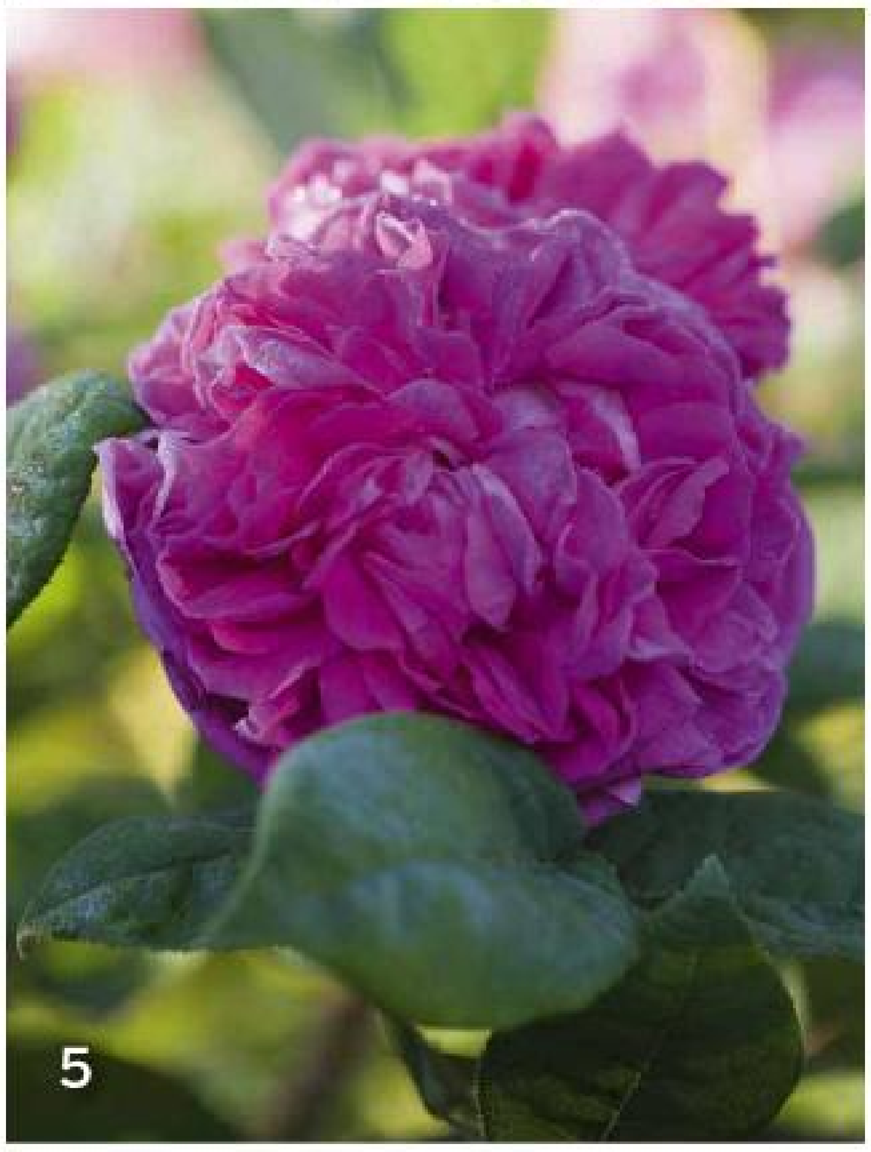
A wonderful rambling rose scrambling freely up to 5m. Its large single flowers are held in abundant bouquets at the beginning and the end of summer, without perfume.

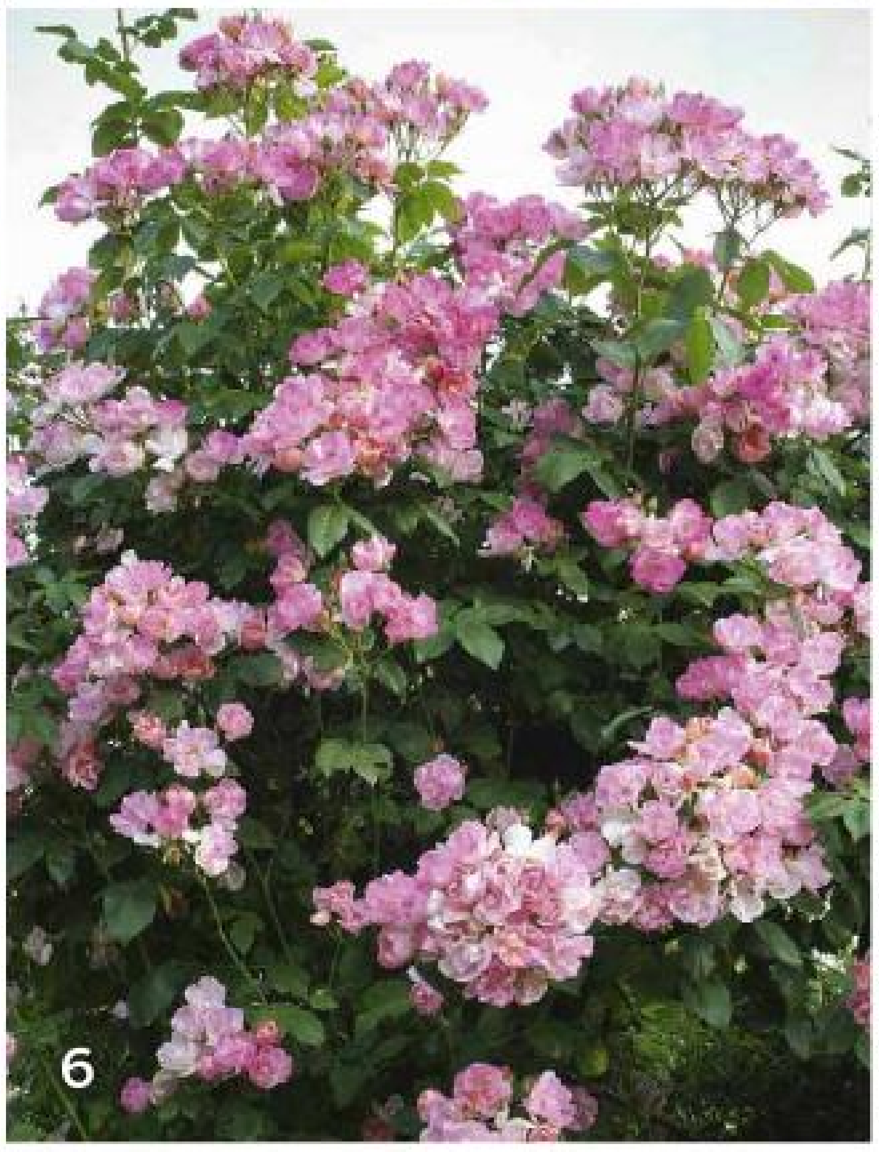












1 PHILIPPE FERRET, 2-5 CLIVE NICHOLS, 6 MAP/NATHALIE PASQUEL / GARDEN WORLD IMAGES

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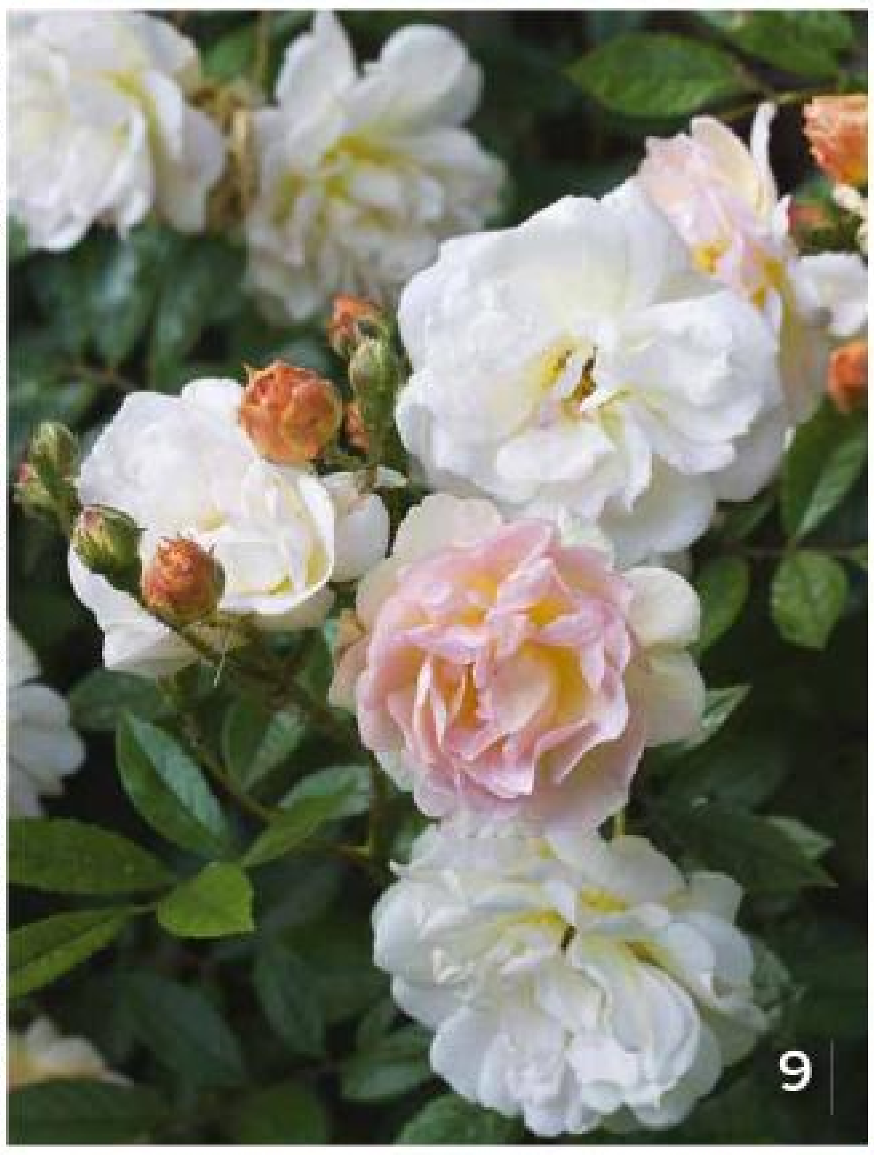
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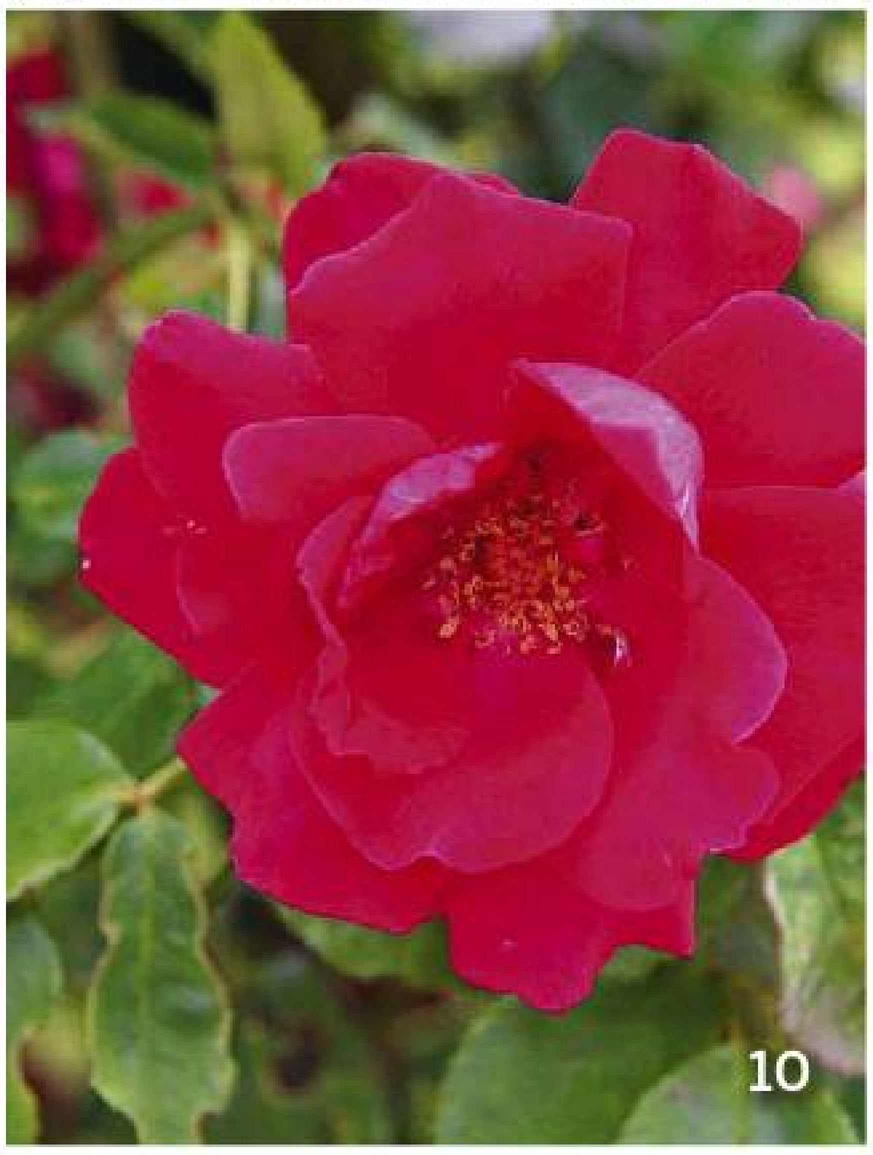
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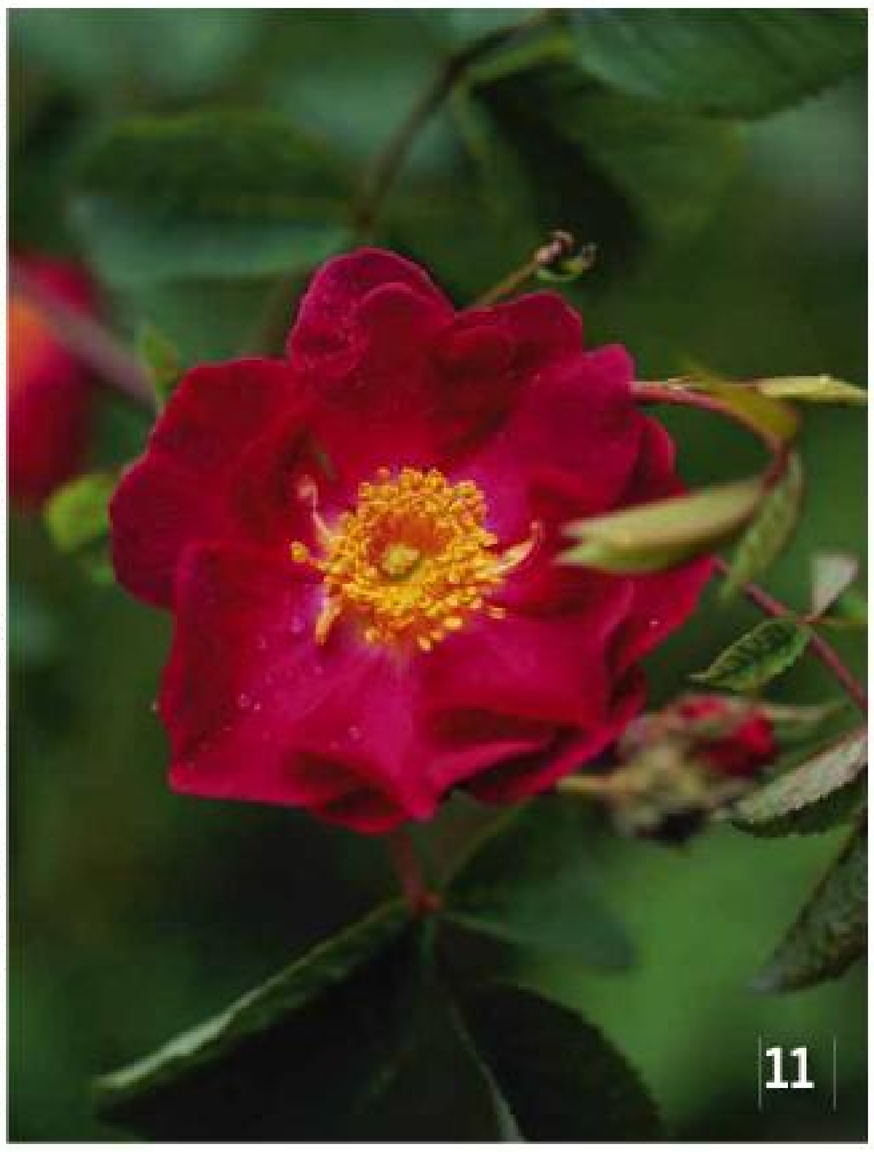
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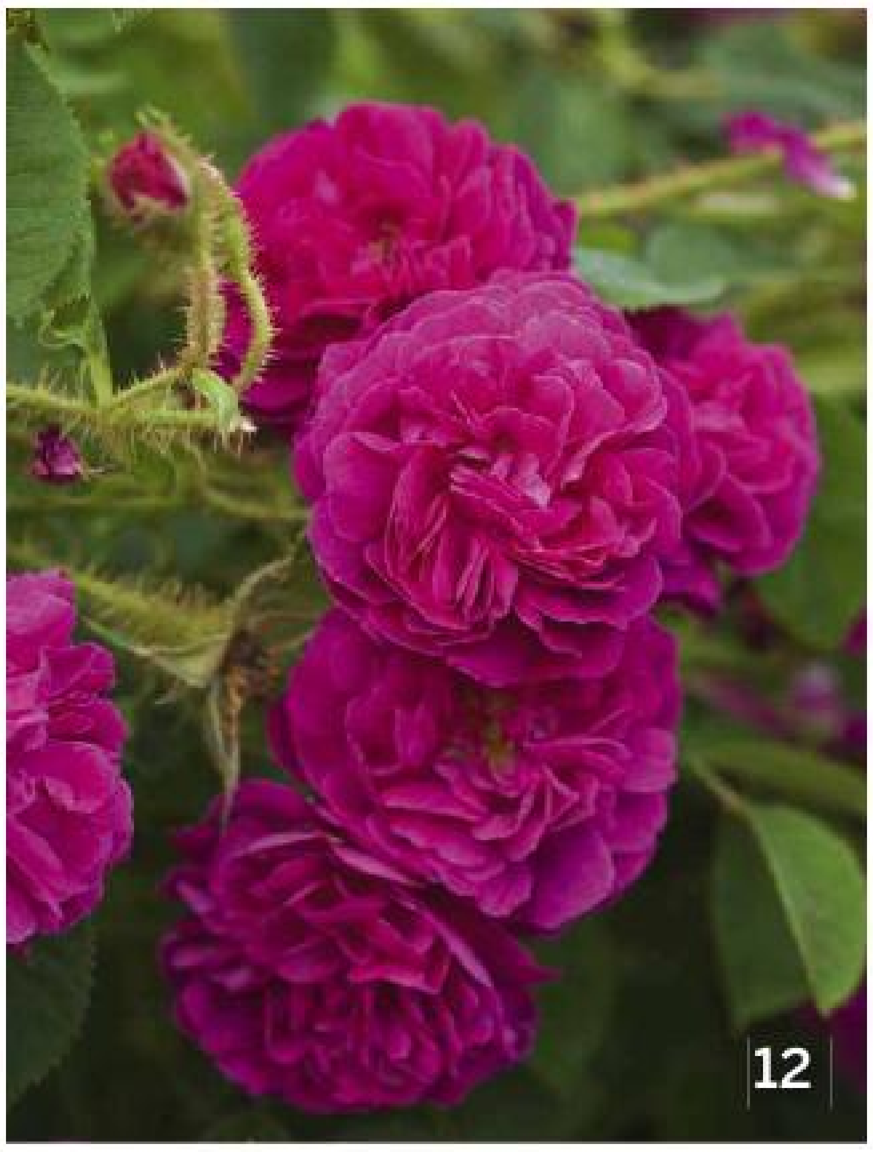
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7 MARIANNE MAJERUS, 8 MAP/NATHALIE PASQUEL / GARDEN WORLD IMAGES, 9 TREVOR SIMS / GARDEN WORLD IMAGES, 10 GEORGES SEGUIN, 11 VICTORIA PEARSON/BOTANICA / GETTY, 12 CLIVE NICHOLS

9 *R.* 'Ghislaine de Feligonde'

GOOD FOR SHADED PLACES

A really beautiful old climber with a profusion of ruffled pompoms in rich apricot, which fade to white. A really adaptable repeat flowering bush or climbing rose. AGM. USDA 5a-9b[†].

10 *R.* Red Parfum de Provence (= 'Meiafone')

GOOD FOR SCENT

An exceptional climbing rose (up to 4m) with excellent resistance to disease, this carries weighty, summer-long blooms in velvety deep red, saturated in heady perfume.

11 *R.* 'La Belle Sultane'

GOOD DEEP COLOUR

A deep, rich and velvety dark shrub rose, with gently rippled petals, vivid cerise at the centre with a button of golden stamens. Lightly fragranced and single flowering. USDA 4a-8b.

12 *R.* 'Henri Martin'

GOOD FOR SCENT

Double-flowered, cranberry red centifolia/musk hybrid shrub rose, packed with both petals and perfume. AGM. USDA 4a-9b.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Les Roses Anciennes André Eve, 1 Rue André Eve, ZA Morailles, Pithiviers-le-Vieil, France.
Tel +33 (0)2 38 30 01 30.
Website www.roses-anciennes-eve.com
Open All year Monday to Friday 9am–12.30pm, 2pm–6pm. 23 April – 26 June as above plus Saturday, Sunday and holidays 9am–6pm. Closed 20 December 2013 – 3 Jan 2014.

FURTHER READING

André Eve: Le Jardinière des Roses by Evelyne Sallandre (Valhermeil, 2005).

The English Roses by David Austin (Conran Octopus, 2011).

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.
[†] Hardiness ratings given where available.

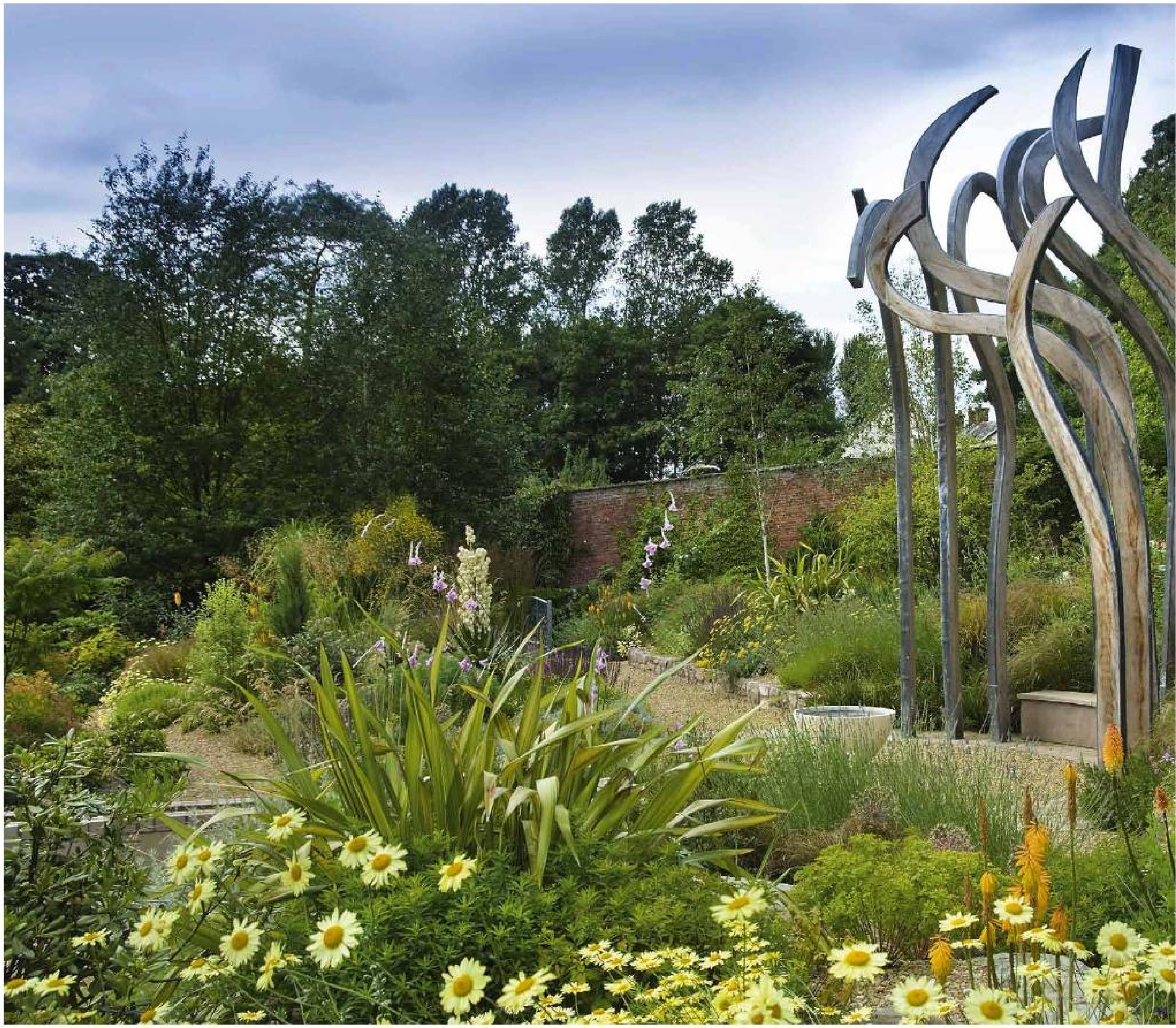
Icing on the cake

Designer Andy Sturgeon faced major challenges when trying to add to the wonderful gardens at Brynbella

WORDS **HELENA ATTLEE** PHOTOGRAPHS **HELEN FICKLING**

Below *Anthemis tinctoria* 'EC Buxton' creates a foreground for Andy Sturgeon's *Stamens*, a sculpture that brought designer and garden owners together in a cooperative design process.

Right The bold flower of a *Yucca gloriosa* towers over a complex tapestry of plants, where the startling pink blooms of *Dierama* 'Puck' create a focal point.

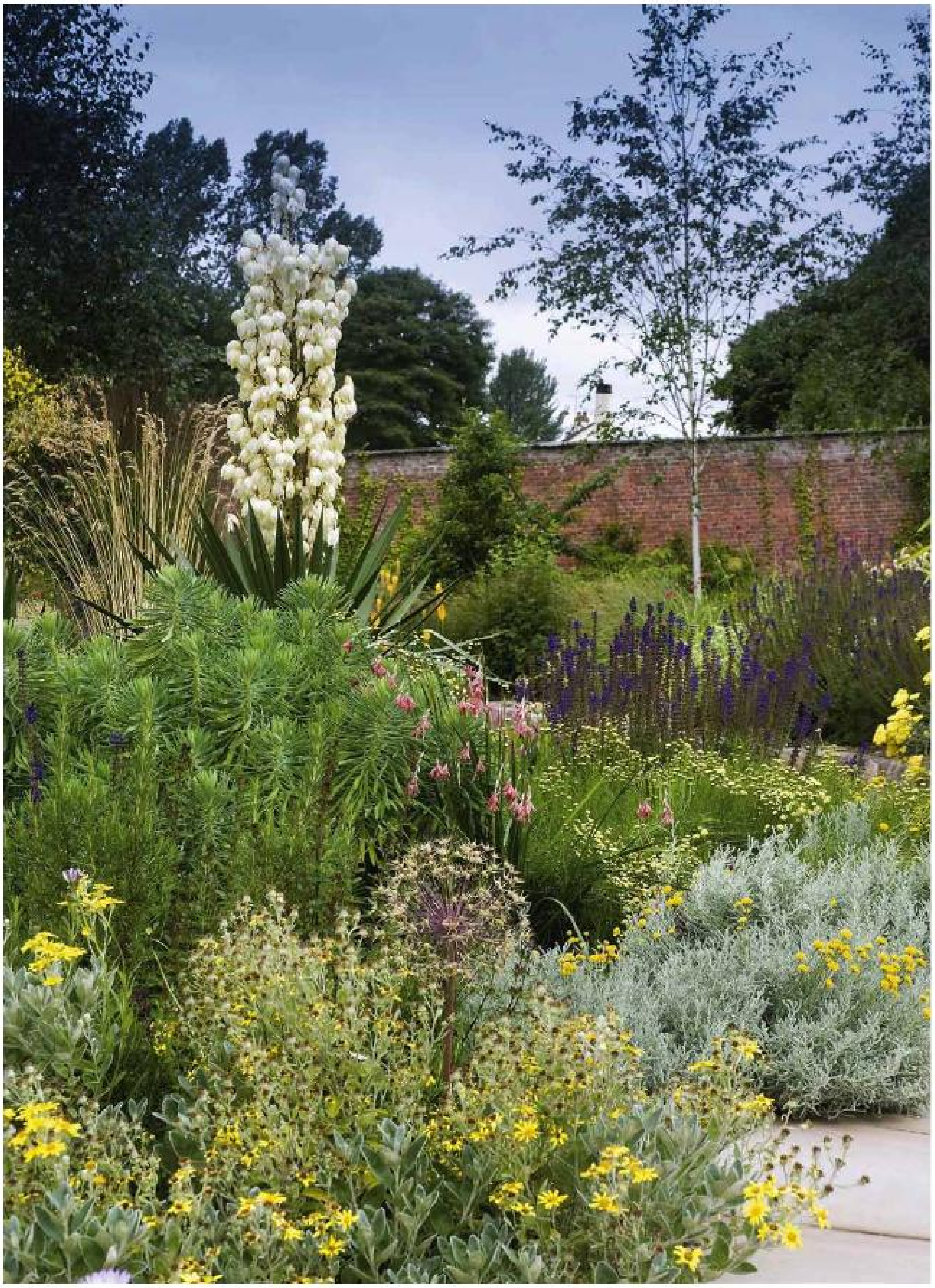


In brief

Name Brynbella.
What A gravel garden designed by Andy Sturgeon.
Where Denbighshire, North Wales.
Size 1/3 acre in a 9-acre garden.
Climate A Gulf Stream garden with a typically mild climate and high rainfall.
Soil Neutral.
Points of interest A continuous display from April to September, contemporary sculpture and water feature.

What can you give the garden that's got everything? Andy Sturgeon has won six gold medals at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show for his garden designs, but even he might have considered this question when he was commissioned to work at Brynbella in North Wales. It had been 12 years since Peter and Maria Neumark bought the Georgian house overlooking the Vale of Clwyd and began to develop the garden. By the time Andy arrived in 2006, the site already encompassed formal, woodland, rose, water and walled gardens. Only a paddock behind the stable block remained untouched, isolated from the rest of the garden by a high wall and a yew hedge. It was this rough scrap of land that Andy was commissioned to develop.

Andy's first challenge was to answer that difficult question, and then he had to find a way of linking the new space to the existing layout. His solution was a low-maintenance gravel garden. This Mediterranean style is popular in the drought-stricken eastern counties of Britain, where Beth Chatto kickstarted the trend in the 1990s with her own gravel garden in Essex. The challenge at Brynbella was to create that gravel-garden feeling of Mediterranean heat and drought in one of the dampest areas of Britain. ▷

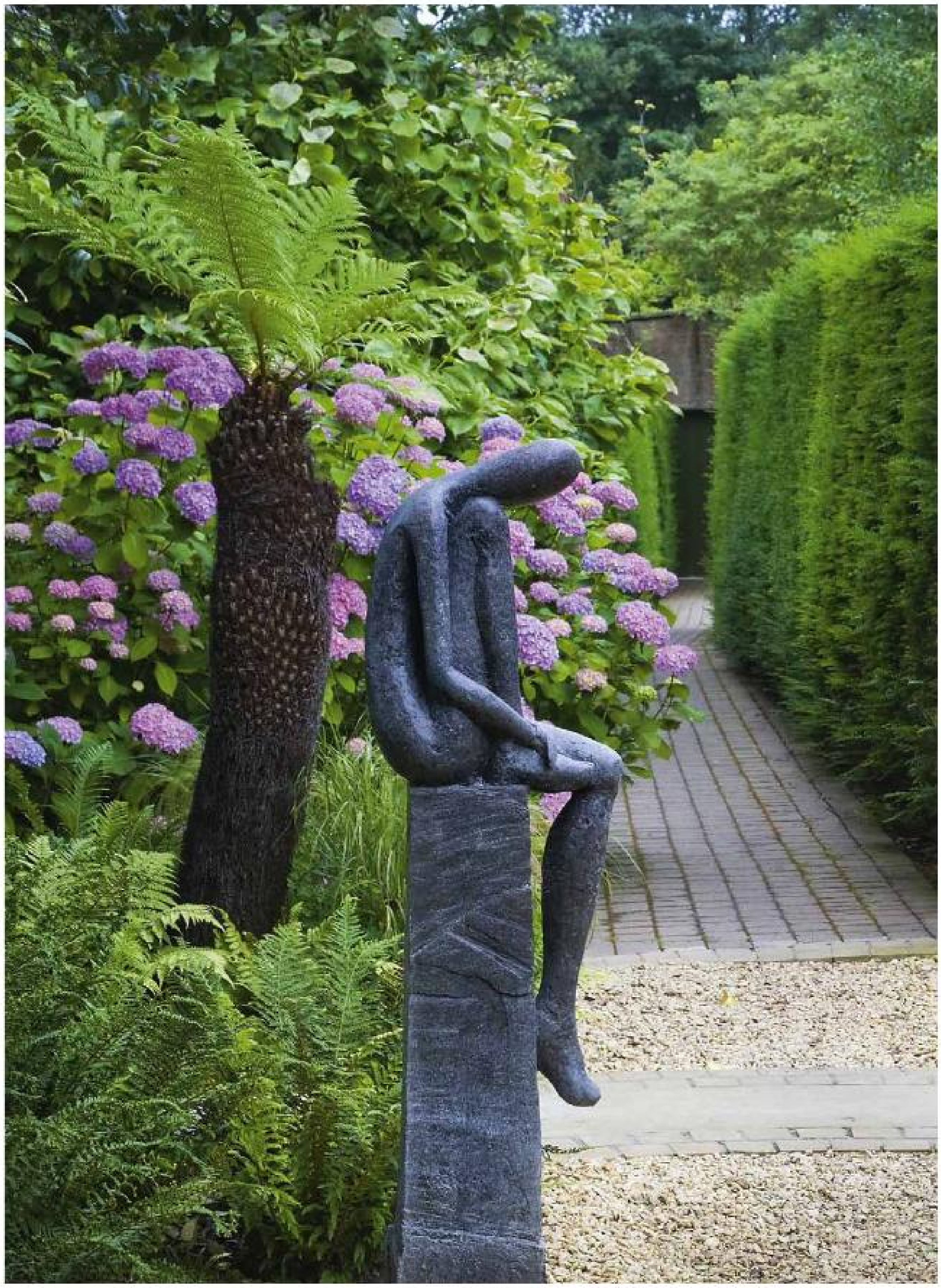


▷ Andy began by having the sodden, sloping site levelled and drained. Hundreds of tons of grit were then dug into the heavy soil by Darren Davies, head gardener, and his two assistants, before it was pushed up into mounds around a series of enormous boulders. This curvaceous, free-draining landscape was covered in a thick layer of gravel. The mounds gave extra height to the plants, so that the frosty verticals of *Eryngium giganteum* 'Silver Ghost', a shimmering screen of *Calamagrostis brachytricha*, achillea and the downy leaves of *Phlomis russeliana* soon towered above plump cushions of *Persicaria affinis* lining the paths, concealing the garden beyond them and creating a sense of mystery. Andy was careful to choose "good smotherers" to suppress the weeds. He's happy to allow self-seeding. "Everything is interchangeable and not formulaic," he explains. And just as he intended, the mounds create the sensation of walking 'among' the exuberant explosion of his colourful planting, rather than simply walking 'through' the garden.

Andy created *Stamens*, a sinuous sculpture made from English oak with lead detailing, to be both the focal point of the garden and the hub of his design. He made a model of the sculpture from malleable lead off-cuts, and then invited Peter and Maria to arrange the 'stamens' as they

Below, left 'Wednesday's Child', a graceful statue by Helen Sinclair, is sited at the end of the water channel.

Below, right Pink-flowered *Persicaria affinis* and silver-leaved *Santolina chamaecyparissus* form low-growing clumps in the foreground.



"The beauty of working with Andy is that he listened to what we wanted"

wished. "The beauty of working with Andy," Maria said, "is that he listened to what we wanted." A raised channel slick with moving water projects from a bubbling bowl fountain at the foot of the sculpture, resolving Andy's final problem by punching through the isolating yew hedge and linking the gravel garden to the rest of the site. In 2010 Andy Sturgeon won Best in Show for his gravel garden at Chelsea. It seems likely that Brynbella was a crucible for the ideas that made his crowd-pulling design a winner. □

USEFUL INFORMATION

Address Tremeirchion, St Asaph, Clwyd LL17 0UF, Wales.

Opening Brynbella is open to members of the Historic Houses Association on the first two Tuesdays in the month from April to September, 11am-4pm.

Turn the page for more on Andy's design aesthetic ▷

Catching the eye

Why focal points, or 'eyecatchers', are a vital tool in garden design

Definition

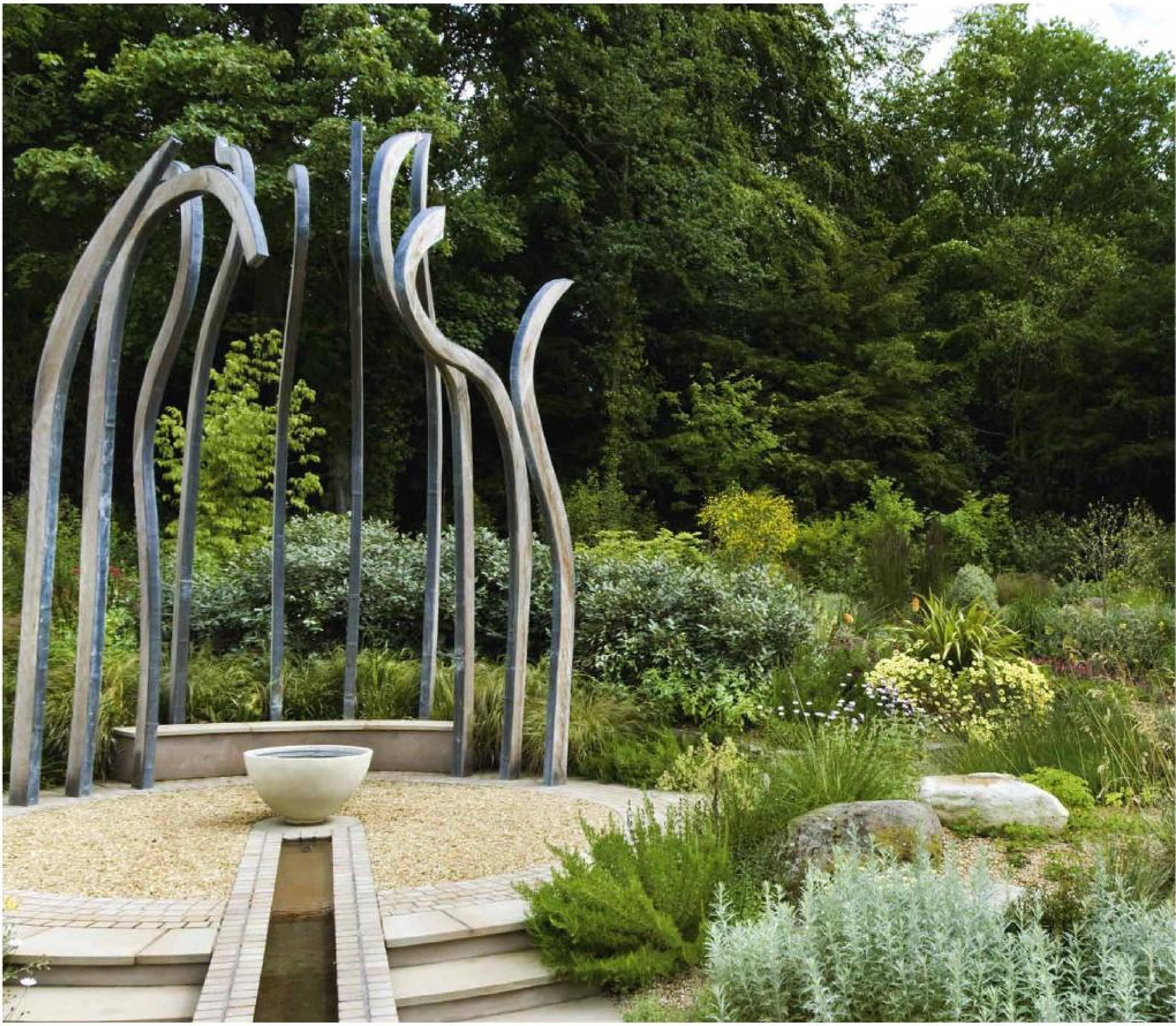
Designers of the English Picturesque landscape in the 18th century referred to focal points as 'eyecatchers'. Andy considers 'eyecatcher' a much better term than 'focal point', as it describes exactly what a focal point is trying to do. Statues, urns or ornamental buildings were commonly used as eyecatchers in the 17th-century French garden, and in 18th-century English landscapes.

Placement

People often think that a focal point should still be at the end of a long vista, but Andy believes it can be used at the centre of a garden to give it a heart. At Brynbella the *Stamens* sculpture is both the heart and the hub of the gravel garden, from which all the paths radiate. Andy has also considered the sculpture in the context of the wider landscape, and he sees it as a focal point for the whole garden.

Scale

It is important to consider the scale of the site when designing a focal point. "There is no point putting in something puny," Andy says. "The focal point must relate to the scale and proportions of the place, and be a significant enough structure to do the job." But there's no need to think on an 18th-century scale. It can be equally effective in the reduced spaces of a small garden, where it serves to direct the gaze.



Adaptability

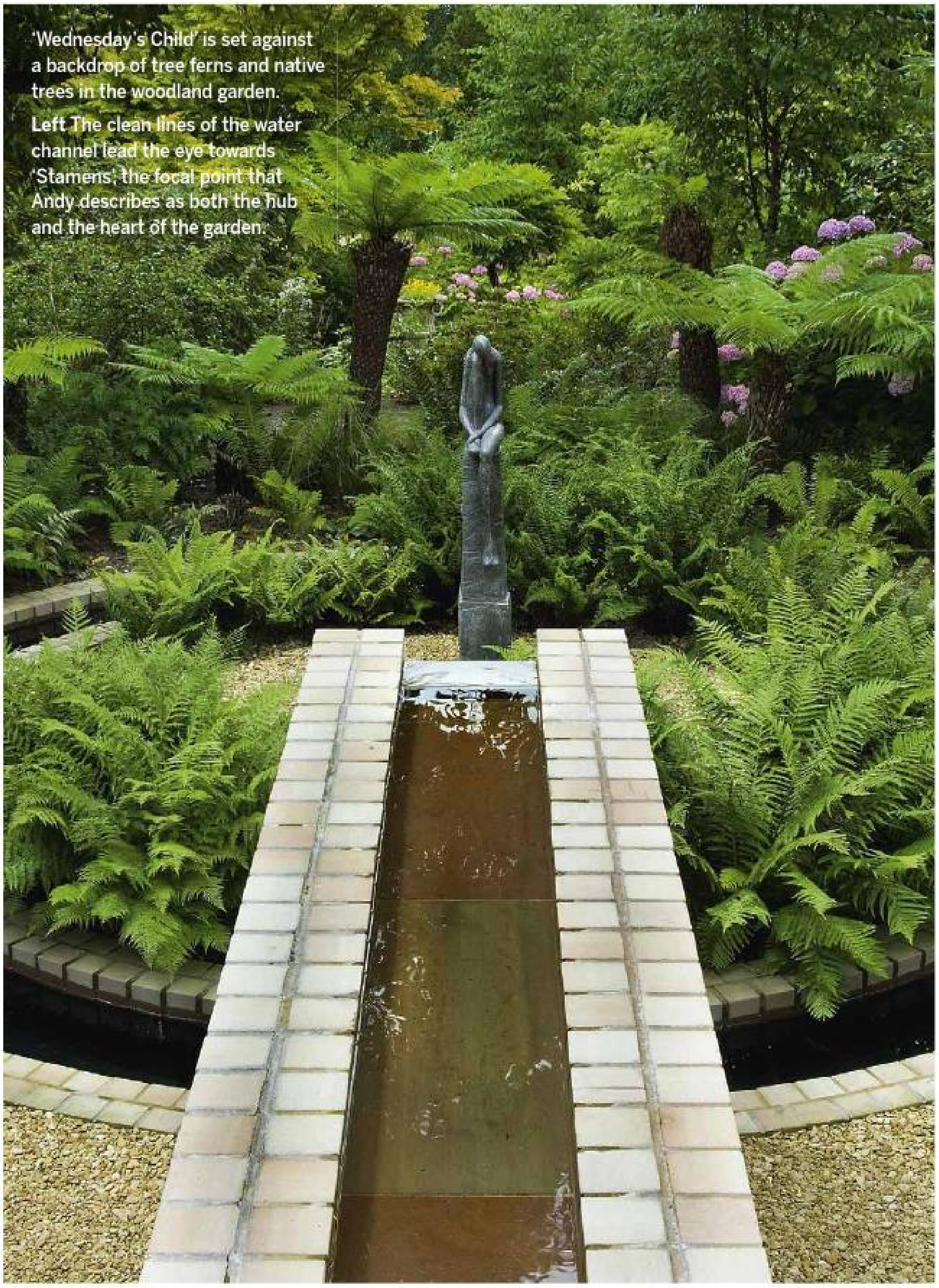
An 18th-century eyecatcher was often used to stop the view at the end of a long avenue. In a contemporary garden the view or vista should be designed at the same time as the focal point that it will frame. Andy points out that the focal point doesn't have to be at the end of a straight path. It can be seen across the top of planting, it can be framed by a single tree or glimpsed at the end of a winding path.

History

Andy has taken inspiration from the 18th-century landscape of Stourhead, where Henry Flitcroft designed a series of classical buildings as eyecatchers on the shores of the lake, each one perfectly framed by trees. Flitcroft's buildings had a symbolic purpose, linking Stourhead to classical myths and pastoral poetry, but they doubled as focal points, the destinations that a walk around the lake would otherwise have lacked.

Inspiration

Flitcroft's eyecatchers spur visitors on today, just as they did in the 18th century, leading them through a series of different atmospheres and sensations, and never leaving them for one moment to their own devices. Andy sees Stourhead as the ultimate lesson in the use of the focal point. "Stourhead is full of surprises," he says. "It constantly raises expectations and then it delivers."



'Wednesday's Child' is set against a backdrop of tree ferns and native trees in the woodland garden.

Left The clean lines of the water channel lead the eye towards 'Stamens', the focal point that Andy describes as both the hub and the heart of the garden.

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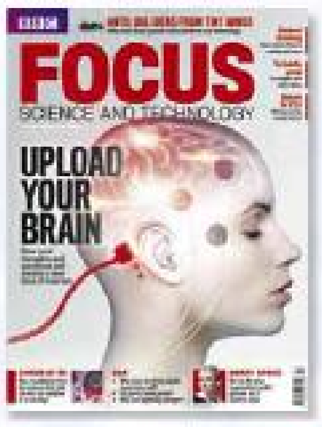

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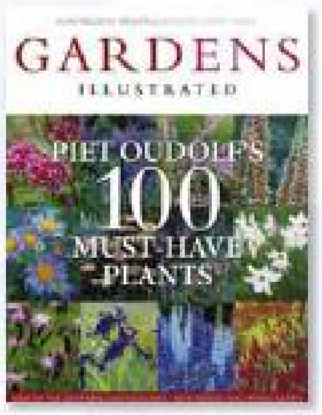
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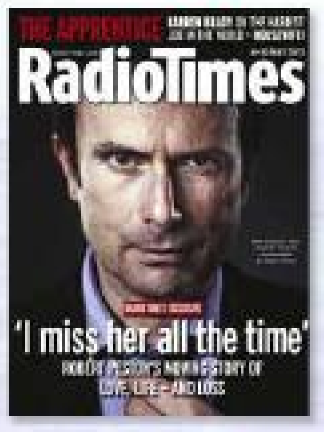
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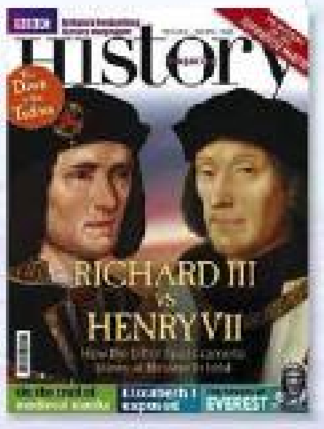

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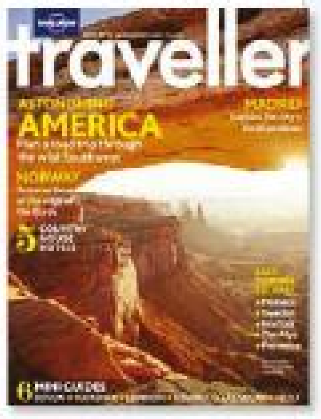

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"Native or non-native, which one's best?"

Soft Landscape Workshop - 25 September 2013

Some may say that planners and ecologists have taken control of the choice of plants we use in our planting schemes. Palmstead's 2013 soft landscape workshop for landscape and garden professionals aims to address this perception and leave you better equipped to negotiate with BREEAM points. Throughout the day our key speakers will discuss and encourage lively debate on the use of native and non-native plants to satisfy planning and environmental requirements.

Tony **Kirkham** from Kew is an expert on trees, Prof. Nigel **Dunnett** is a green roof and meadow expert and Prof. Chris **Baines** is a long time promoter of wildlife in gardens and listed as one of the top 40 most influential people in his field. Plus further speakers to be announced and our showcase exhibition; all taking place at Ashford International Hotel, Simone Weil Avenue, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8UX.

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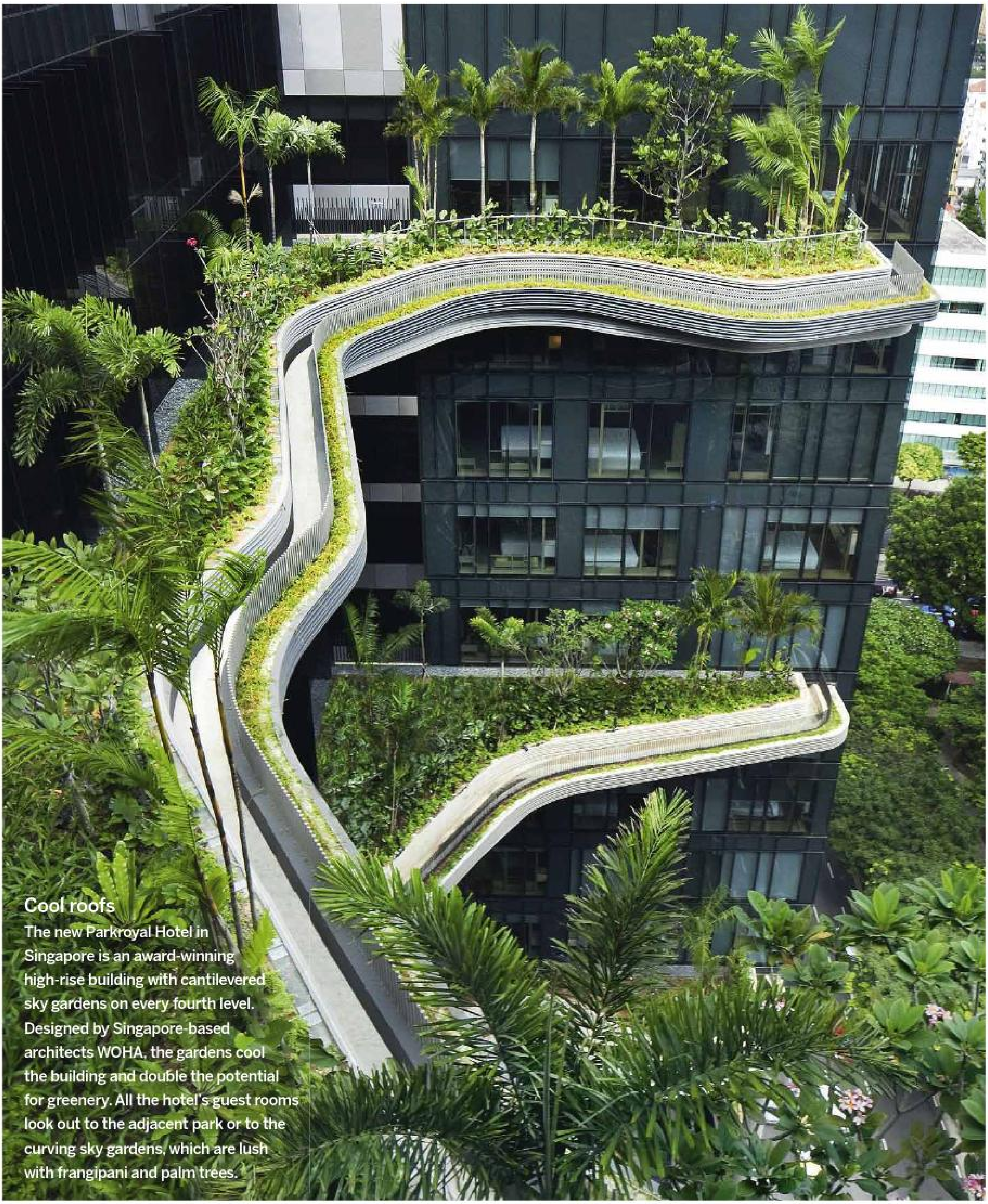

Cool roofs

The new Parkroyal Hotel in Singapore is an award-winning high-rise building with cantilevered sky gardens on every fourth level. Designed by Singapore-based architects WOHA, the gardens cool the building and double the potential for greenery. All the hotel's guest rooms look out to the adjacent park or to the curving sky gardens, which are lush with frangipani and palm trees.

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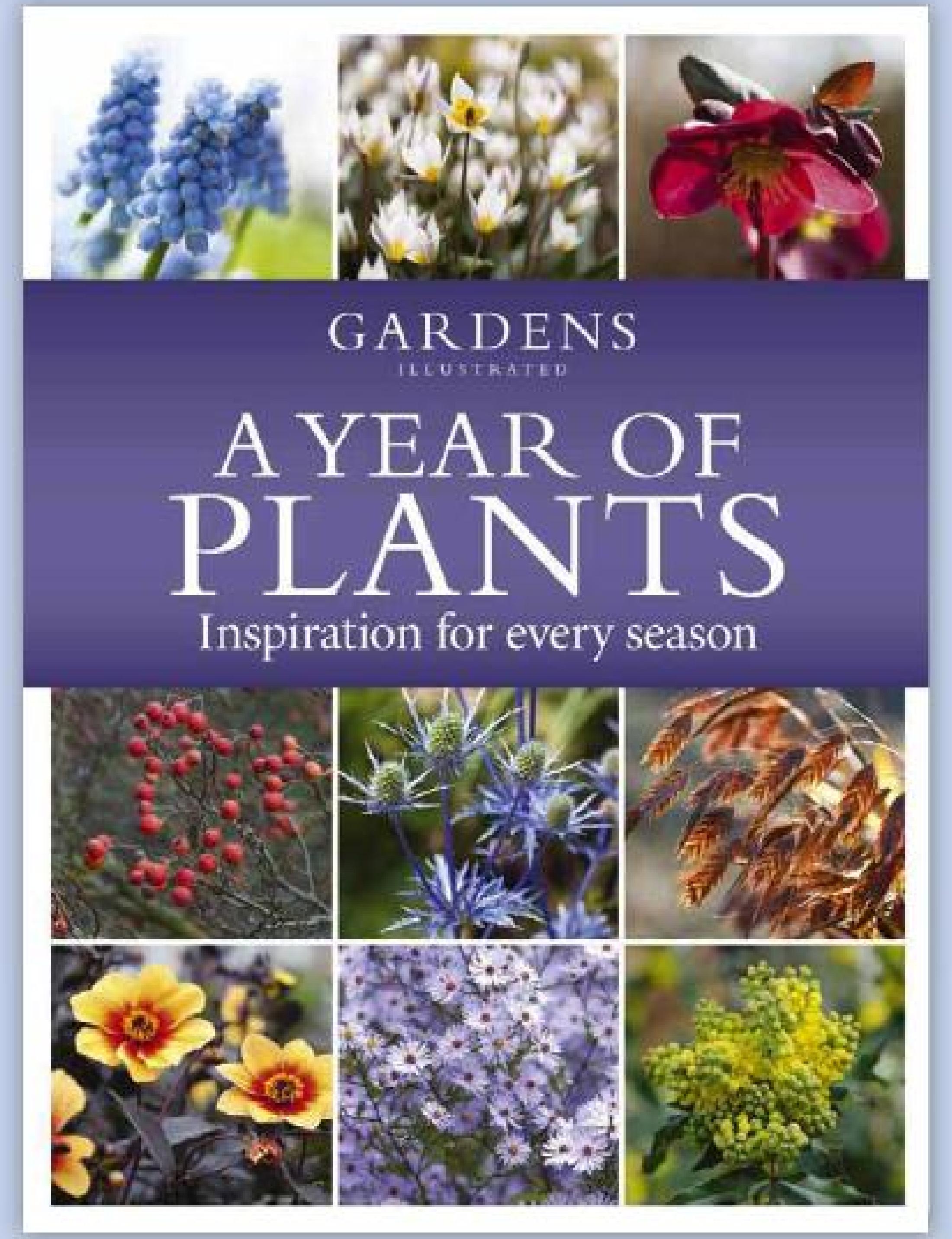

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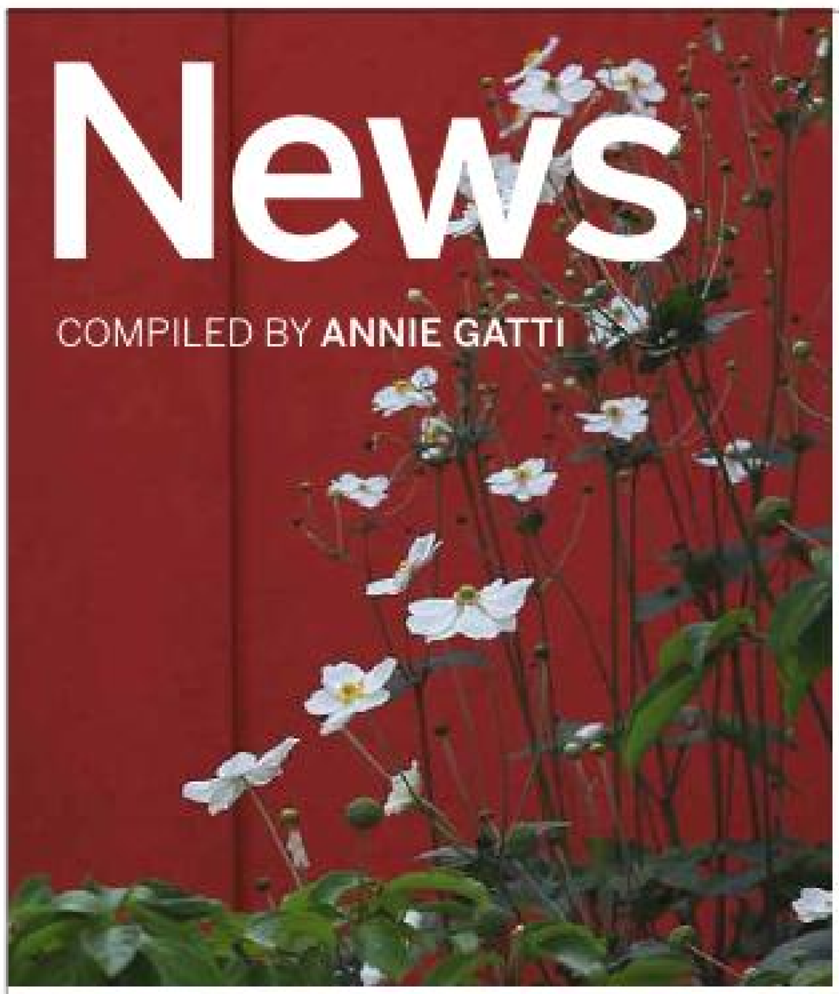
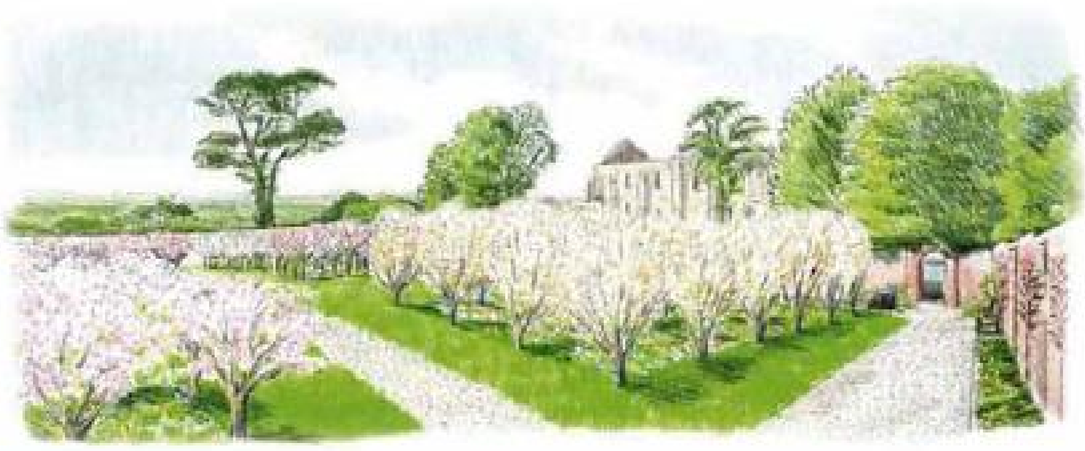


News

COMPILED BY **ANNIE GATTI**

GREEN FUSE: THE WORK OF DAN PEARSON

The latest exhibition at the Garden Museum, London, explores the influences and career of award-winning landscape and garden designer Dan Pearson. It includes three specially commissioned films of some of Dan's projects and a new planting design of woodland species for the border at the front of the museum. The exhibition continues until 20 October. Tel 020 7401 8865; www.gardenmuseum.org



BATTLE ABBEY IMAGE BY JENNY EXLEY ASSOCIATES

RESTORATION

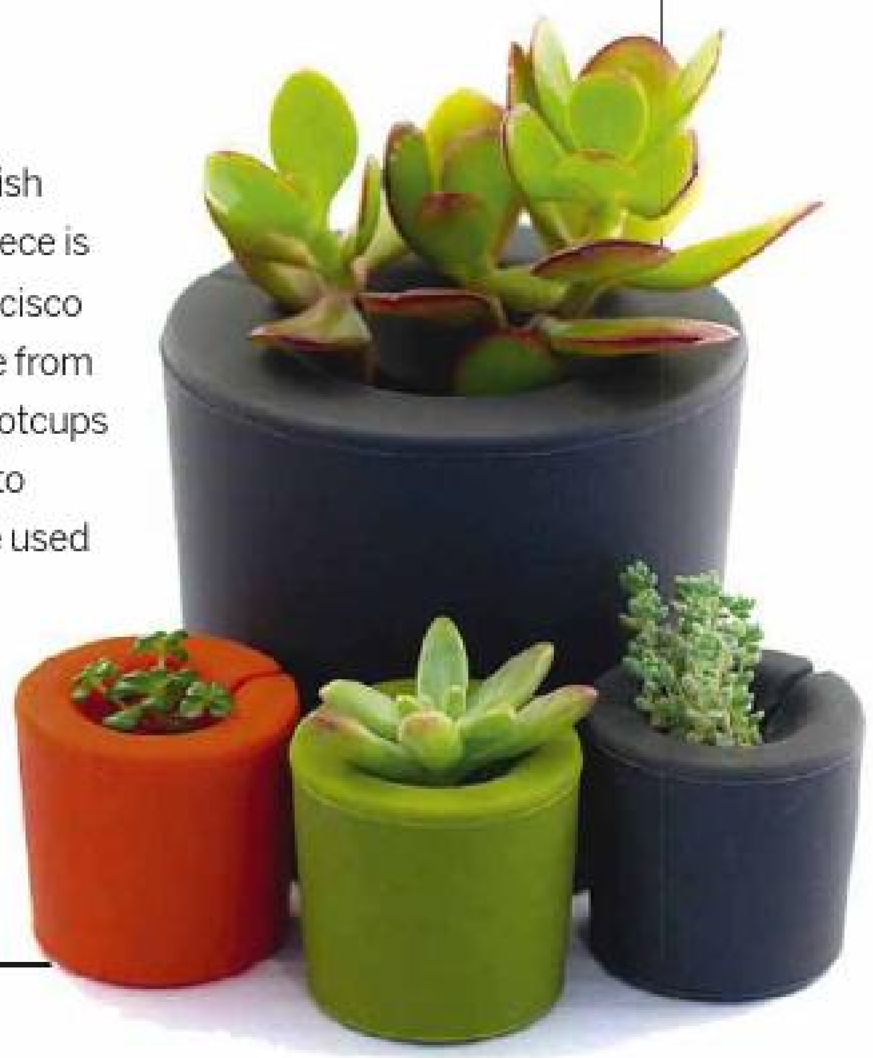
Battle Abbey orchard

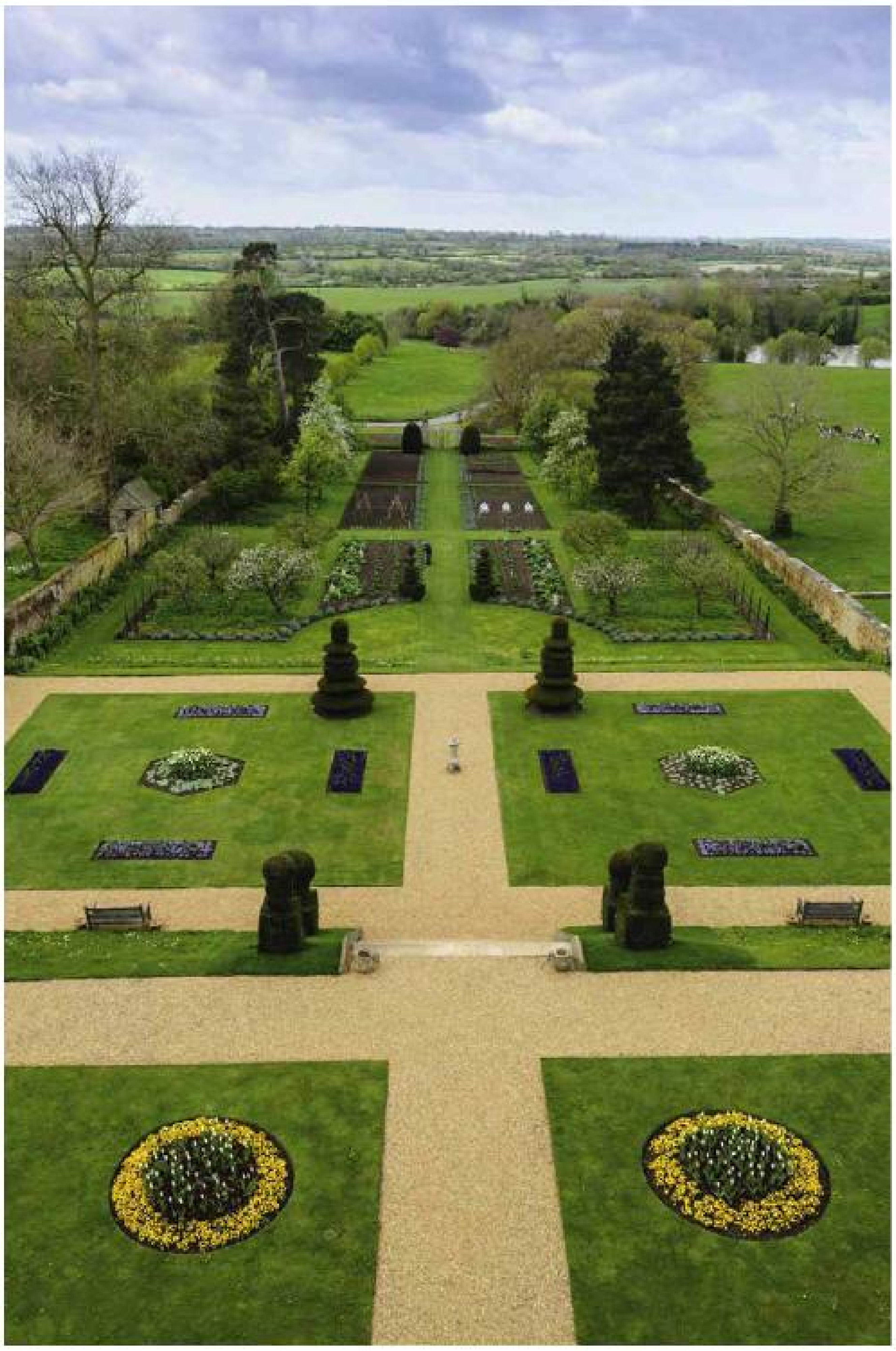
The walled garden of Battle Abbey in East Sussex, planted as a private orchard for the use of the Duke and Duchess of Cleveland from 1858, has been restored to its original Victorian layout. It has been planted with 68 fruit trees set in a native wildflower meadow. Beehives are being introduced this summer.

ACCESSORY

Cuttings cup

Taking root cuttings that are stylish enough to make a table centrepiece is now possible thanks to San Francisco based company, rootcup®. Made from a rubber-like natural material, rootcups hold the leaves above the water to prevent rotting. They can also be used to grow indoor bulbs such as hyacinths. Priced £4.99 (small) and £11.99 (large) from Magma Books, 16 Earlham St, London WC2H 9LN; www.magmabooks.com





RESTORATION PROJECT

A five-year garden restoration at Canons Ashby, an Elizabethan manor house in Northamptonshire, is now complete. The last stage of the £250,000 project involved the replanting of the bottom two terraces on the south facade with fruit trees and vegetables and the opening up of a series of superb vistas overlooking Canons Ashby lakes. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/canons-ashby-house

PUBLIC GARDEN

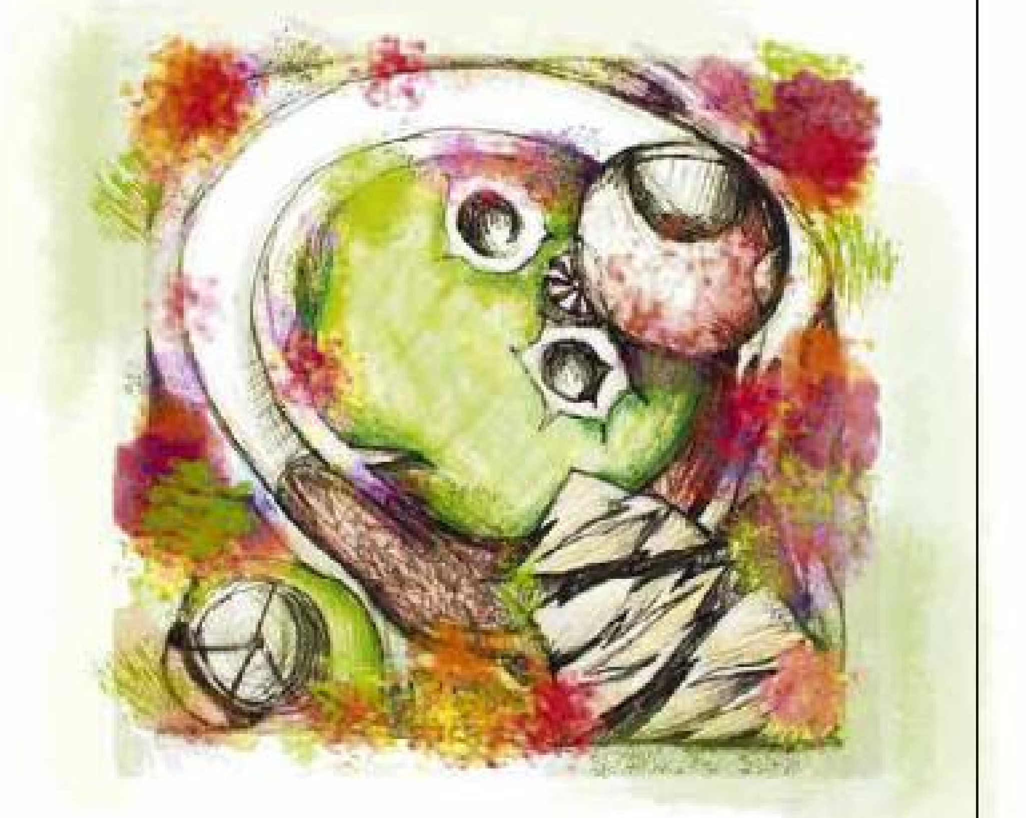
Native plant walk

A crescent-shaped 70m-long water feature with stone weirs is the centrepiece of the new 3.5-acre Native Plant Garden at the New York Botanical Garden. Designed by Sheila Brady of Oehme van Sweden, it features boardwalks made from black locust wood that lead through a number of different habitats, including open meadow, wetlands and shaded woodland, all planted with natives of northeastern North America.

PRIZE WINNER

Child's play

A garden seen through the eyes of a child was the winning design by artist Victoria Stothard for *The One Show* Garden to feature at RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, 9-14 July. The imaginative design for a family garden, chosen from hundreds of entries, has a woodland setting and features a towering toadstool playhouse, giant tree roots and a tumbling waterfall. For tickets call 0844 338 7506, www.rhs.org.uk



Notebook

- **The next online short course in garden design** from the Inchbald School of Design starts on 9 September. For details visit www.inchbald.co.uk
- **Speakers at the Palmstead Nurseries Soft Landscape Workshop** on native versus non-native planting include Tony Kirkham, Chris Baines and Nigel Dunnett. Book now for the one day seminar on 25 September at Ashford International Hotel, Kent, at www.palmstead.co.uk
- **A two-day conference** on garden buildings, chaired by Tim Richardson, takes place at Painshill, Cobham, Surrey, on 10-11 October. Tickets cost £175 (students £160). Tel 01932 868113. www.painshill.co.uk
- **The Allariz International Festival of Gardens** continues in Galicia, Spain, until 31 October. The submission deadline for next year's festival, on 'Gardens of Plenty', is 15 November. www.allariz.com

CANONS ASHBY IMAGE BY JASON INGRAM

JACKSONS SHOW GARDENS

Come and get some inspiration!

WEBSITE **www.jacksons-fencing.co.uk** TEL **01233 750393**

Now in to the fourth year, the Show Gardens have proved to be an attraction for visitors to the Kent fencing company's display area, as news has got around about these inspirational displays. In the first year the project was hailed as a "mini Chelsea Flower Show" as people in the Kent area were treated to visions of loveliness more associated with the big RHS flower shows, rather than something you would expect to see in a local fencing centre.

The competition is national and open to garden designers, landscape architects and other landscape professionals, and the prize is to have your design built - and on show for several years, not like the week or so the big garden shows run for. This year, two of the older gardens have made way for new young blood: Joanne Winn has successfully redesigned the Seaside garden, creating the Sanctuary garden, using the plot's unusual shape in a totally different way, which is a million miles away from the "seaside". Joanne has designed the 'retreat', a sheltered space within the garden, made from Jacksons Venetian panels. This has already been much admired by visitors, many of whom want to recreate a similar structure in their own gardens, after seeing how effective the retreat looks, especially when the sun shines through it striping the inside with dramatic shadows.

The other 'new kid on the block' is a rejuvenation of the Float garden, previously designed by RHS medal winner Heather Appleton. The redesign was successfully achieved by David Magner, a garden design student from Plumpton College, in East Sussex. It has a sensitive and imaginative new planting scheme, which gives the garden a whole new feel.

Visit Jacksons and get some inspiration for your own garden projects – after the 18th May,the gardens, seven in all, are open to visitors during Jacksons usual opening hours.

For more info see www.jacksons-fencing.co.uk/showgardens or call 01233 750393

Linking the house and garden

One of the keys to successful garden design is striking a balance between indoors and outdoors, making for a harmonious whole

WORDS **ANNIE GUILFOYLE**

Annie Guilfoyle is Director of Garden Design at KLC School of Design. She is also Garden Course Coordinator at West Dean College and runs her own garden design studio.

Garden designers will talk about creating 'unity and harmony' in a garden but how can you achieve it? A good starting point is with the house. Consider whether it is a period property, does it have a distinctive architectural style and what are its key materials? You could create a garden that is faithful to a particular period, or form a connection by simply selecting materials or design details from the house and using them in the garden construction. Did you know that you can take a sample brick from your house to a brick library (yes, there is such a thing) and find a match? This is particularly useful when building walls, steps or raised beds.

Doors and windows are the physical connections between house and garden; their location will have a direct influence on where best to position paths, terraces and focal points. Decide which windows offer the most interesting views into the garden. This could be standing at the kitchen sink or sitting in the conservatory. Taking photographs from inside will help you decide where to place key focal points, such as a stunning tree, a piece of sculpture or a striking planting scheme.

If the house interior has a strong theme or style then why not reflect this in the design of the garden? Think about matching paint colours, surface materials or design features. It is also possible to create a seamless transition between inside and out by building the patio at the same level as the threshold. However, be extremely careful not to breach the damp-proof course and ensure that you install adequate drainage along the baseline of the house to take away any surface water. If you are using the same paving material inside and out, remember that the exterior paving will weather and eventually there may be a considerable difference in colour.

A perfect example of connecting a house and garden is the architect Peter Aldington's award-winning house, Turn End, in Buckinghamshire. I first visited this garden many years ago as a student and it left a lasting impression. The house wraps around an intimate courtyard with a pond and a *Robinia* tree at its centre. When the huge concertina glass doors are open, the interior and exterior merge effortlessly. Carefully considered sight lines align with beautifully composed views of the garden. Turn End is a masterful illustration of unity and harmony, where architecture and garden elegantly combine.

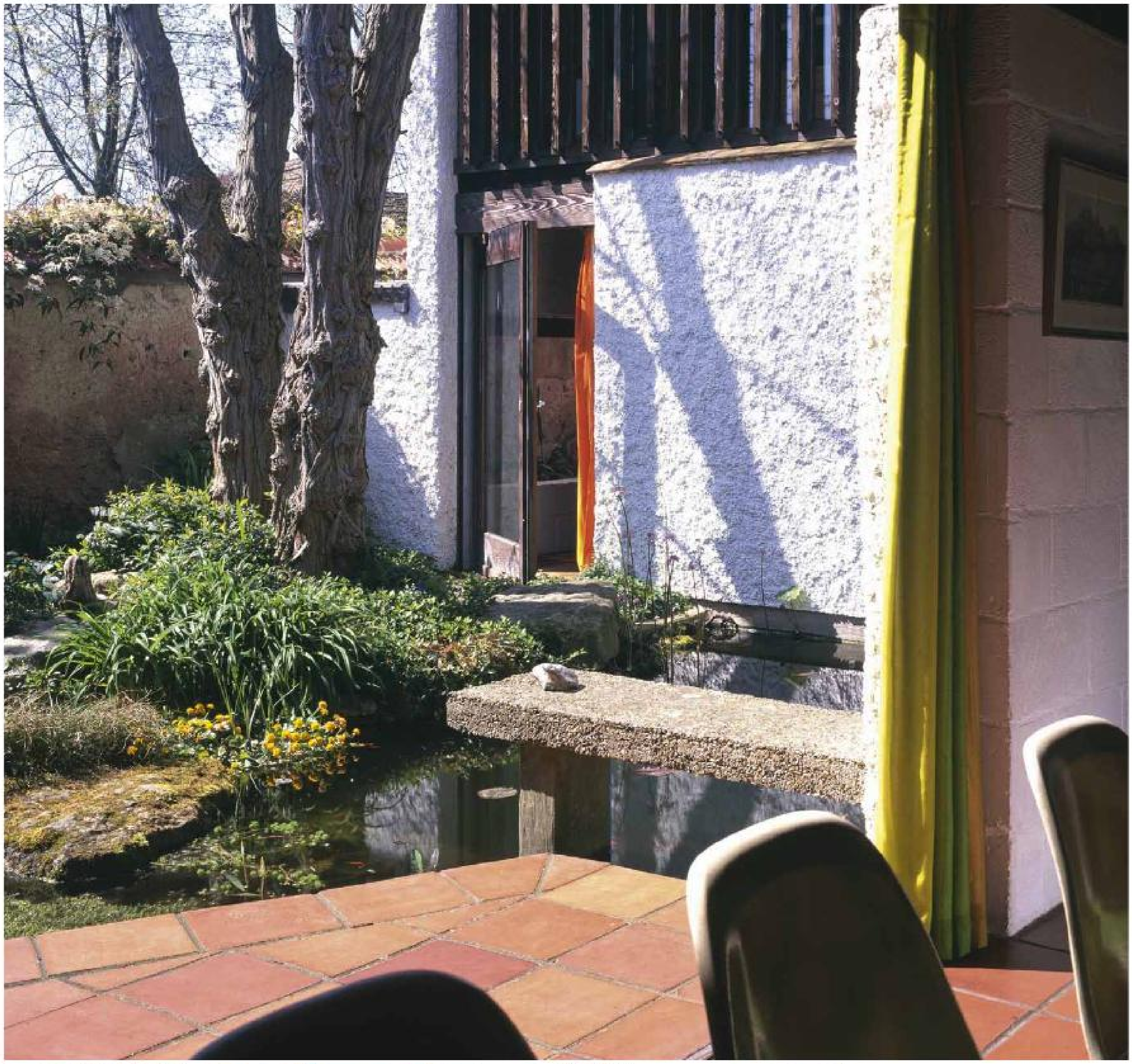
Working with a grid

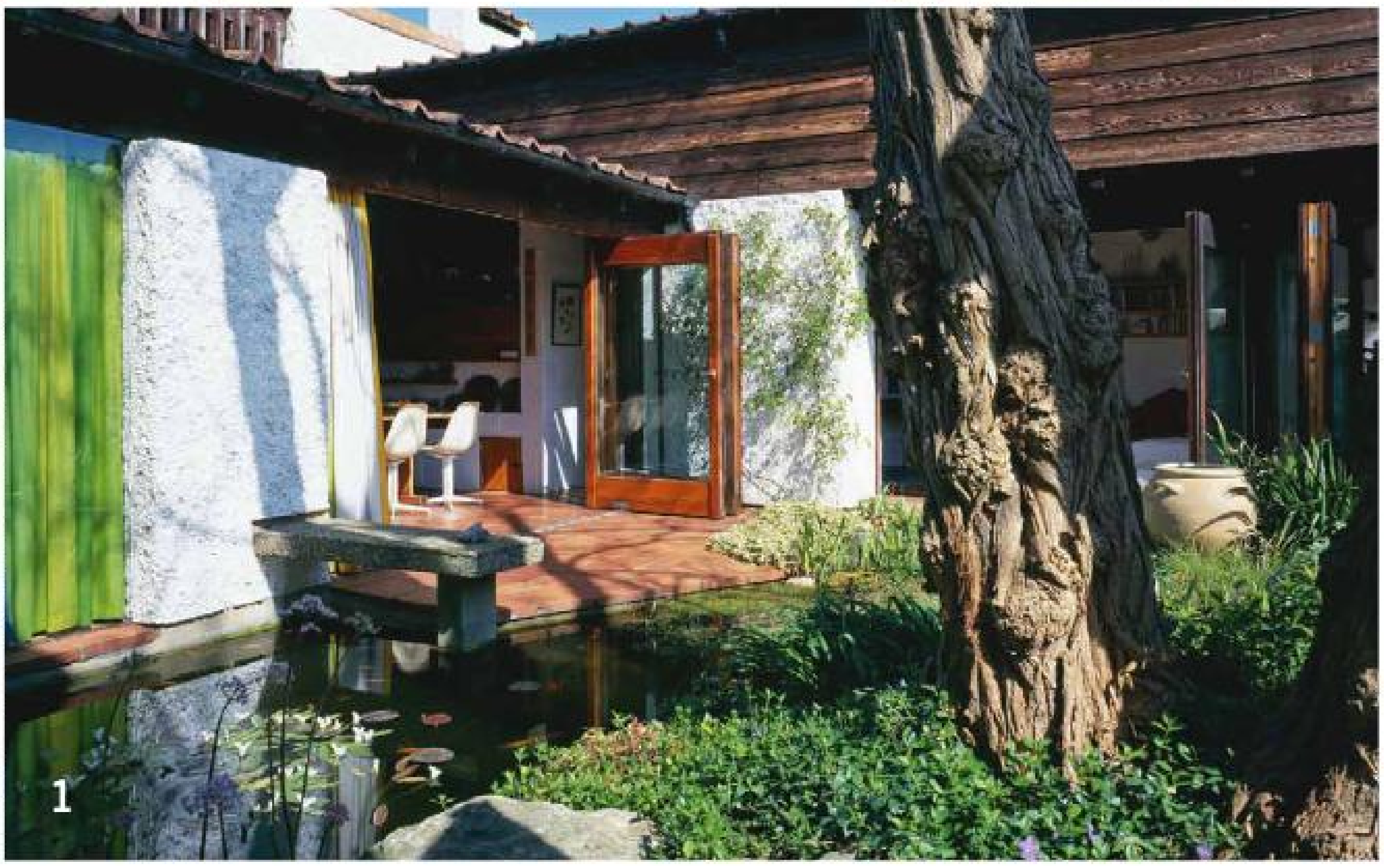
To ensure the proportions of a garden are in keeping with those of the house, garden designer John Brookes suggests using a grid system. Take the dimensions of a prominent feature on the house, such as an extension, French windows or even the spacing between windows and doors. Use this measurement to draw a grid on to tracing paper so you can formulate a garden design in scale with the house. This method can be particularly useful for designing areas immediately surrounding the house, but you should not feel too constrained by it. To find out more about the grid system, try *John Brookes Garden Design* book, published by Dorling Kindersley.

USEFUL INFORMATION

See GARDENS ILLUSTRATED April 2011 (issue 172) for Tim Richardson's article about Turn End entitled 'Let the outside in'. Jane Brown's book, *A Garden & Three Houses,* tells the story of the creation of the house and garden and is available from the Turn End website. Turn End is open for the National Gardens Scheme on the 8 September 2013. For further details, see *The Yellow Book* or visit www.ngs.org.uk. Alternatively, private garden visits for groups of 10 people or more may be arranged by appointment. Turn End, Townside, Haddenham, Aylesbury HP17 8BG. **Tel** 01844 291383. **Website** www.turnend.org.uk □

NEXT MONTH Linking garden and landscape.





TOP: RICHARD BRYANT / ARCAID IMAGES. BOTTOM: ARCAID IMAGES / ALAMY

1 Cloistered charm
The courtyard at Turn End is overlooked by a number of rooms and when the glass doors are open the house and garden become one unified space. The pond attracts wildlife and is a constant source of interest. The *Robinia* tree anchors the design and provides dappled shade in summer.

2 Still waters

Positioning a water feature close to the house not only adds drama to a garden but also provides a relaxing place to sit. The reflective quality of the water adds another dimension to the space and brings the sky into the garden.

3 Cottage garden

East Lambrook Manor in Somerset is the quintessential English cottage garden, created between 1940 and 1960 by garden writer and plantswoman Margery Fish. Cottage gardens were one of the most popular styles in Britain during the 20th century, and work well in more traditional settings.

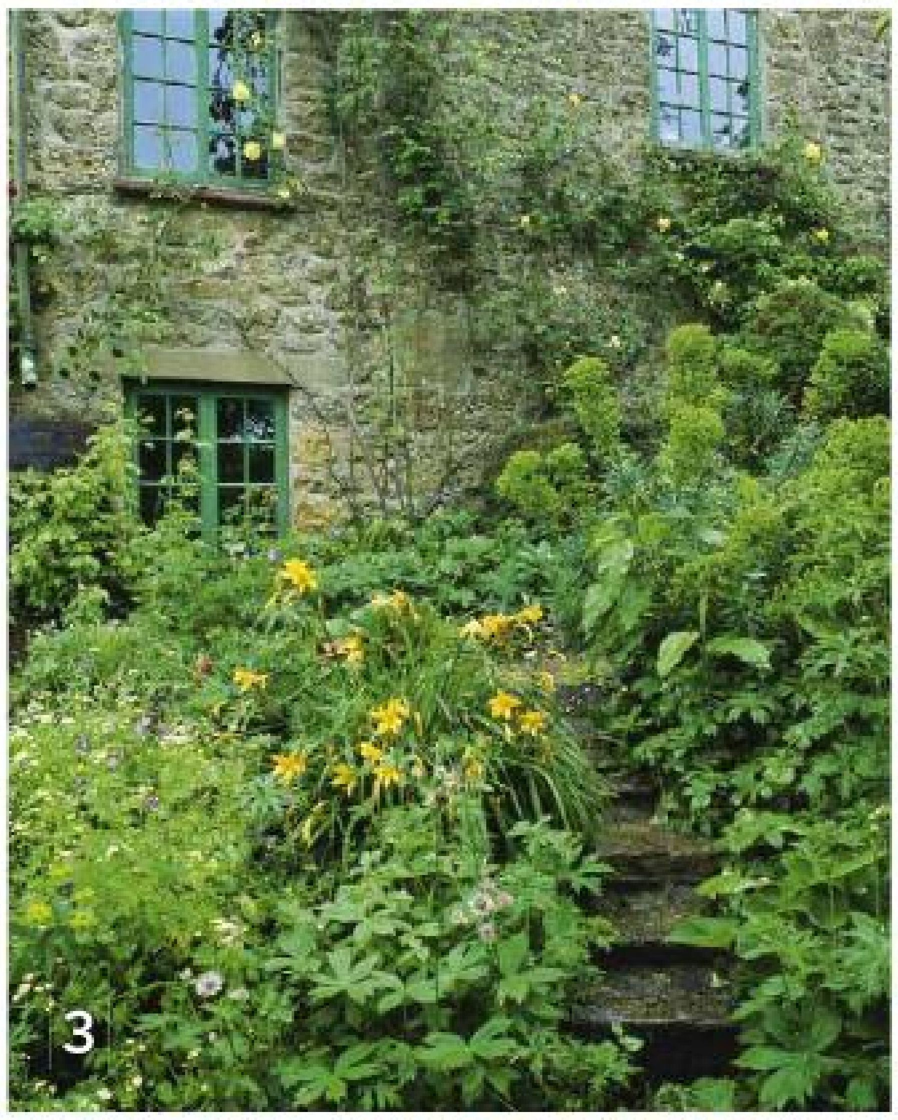
4 Matching materials

Look at the existing materials used in the construction of your house and see if you can replicate these within the garden. Bricks can be used to build paths and patios. Alternatively you can use them as edging in combination with other materials to create a more subtle connection.

5 Living lightly

Farnsworth House is a striking example of a building that links with the existing landscape. Architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe designed this weekend retreat in the late 1940s. Sensitively positioned among mature trees on an elevated frame, it appears to float effortlessly above the ground.

2



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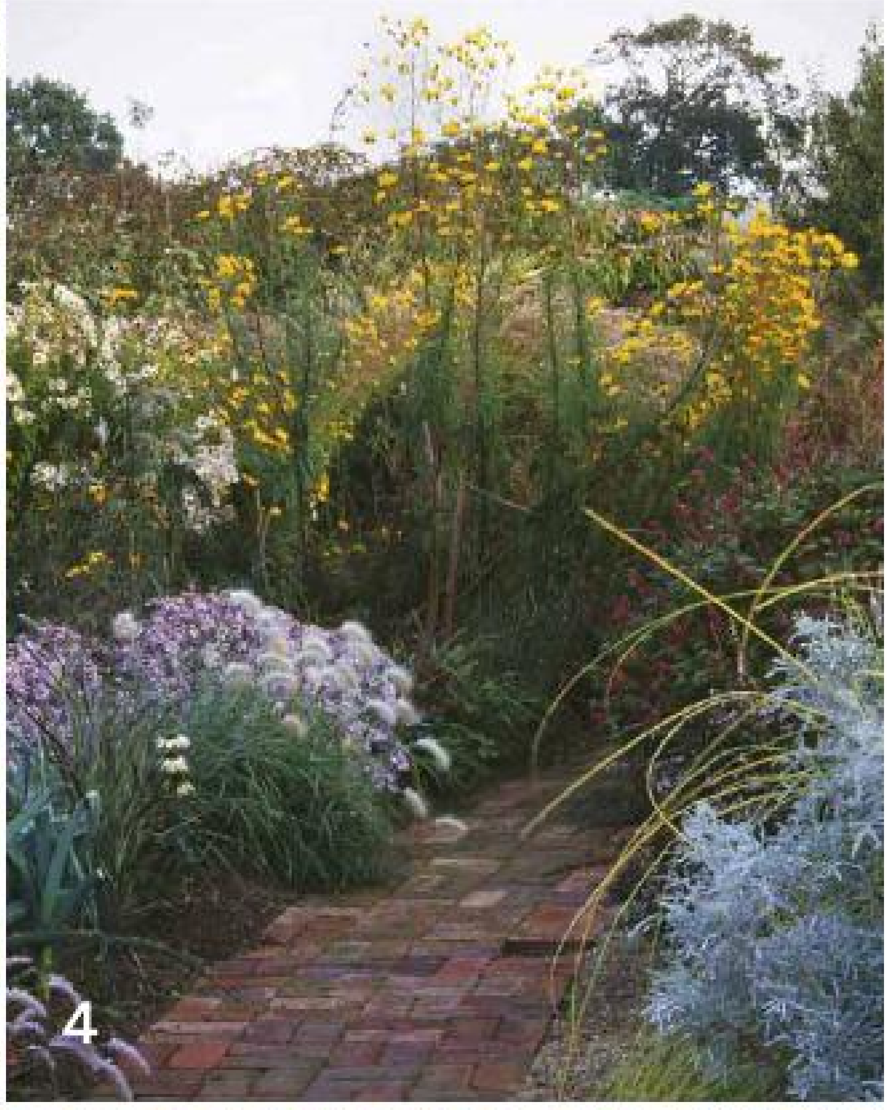
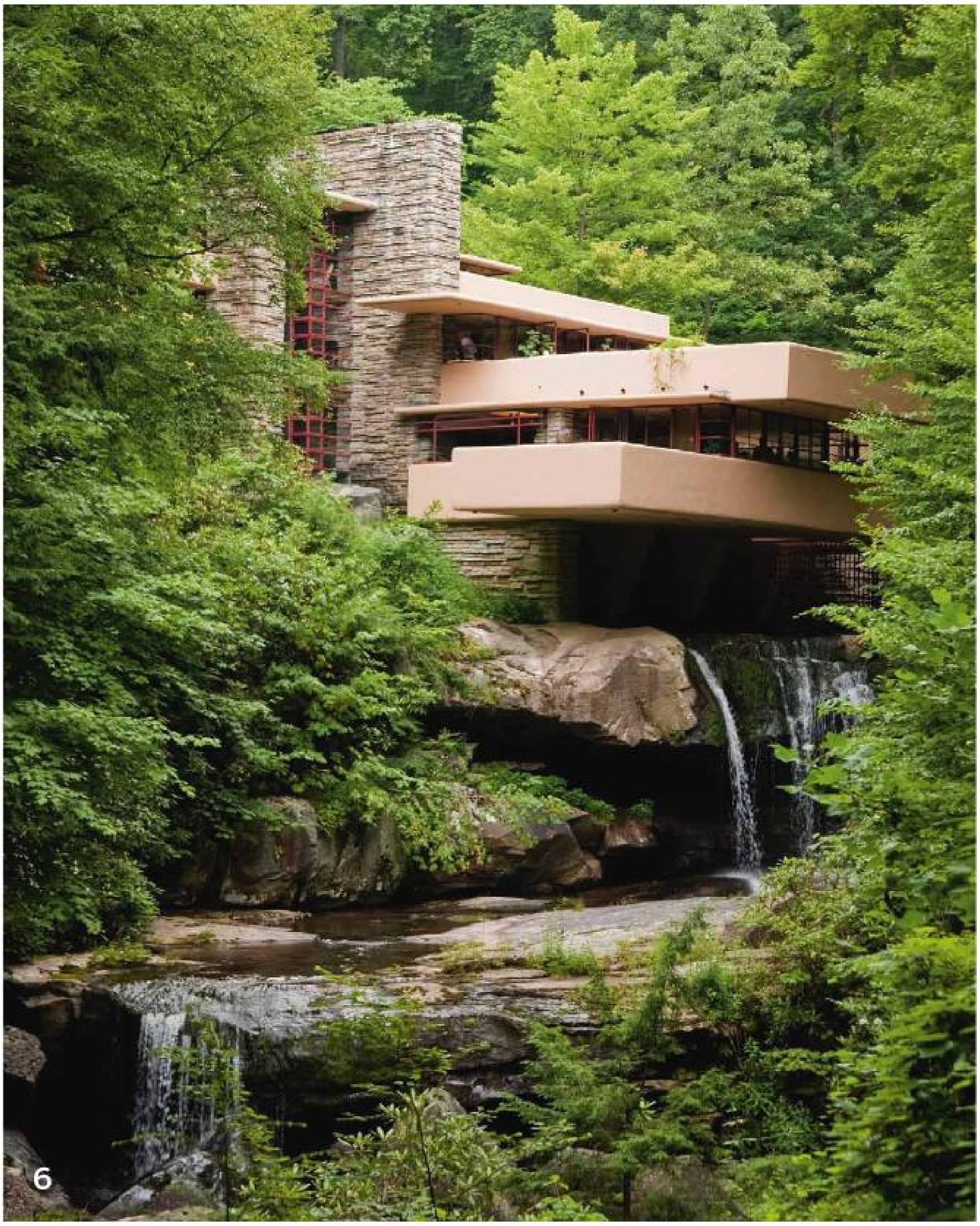


4

5

2 MARIANNE MAJERUS, 3 & 4 CLIVE NICHOLS, 5 JON MILLER/HEDRICH BLESSING/ARCAID IMAGES



6 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC IMAGE COLLECTION / ALAMY; 7 MARIANNE MAJERUS

6 On the rocks

Built in the 1930s, Frank Lloyd Wright's iconic house, Fallingwater, in southwest Pennsylvania, has to be one of the finest examples of the house and landscape merging together. Apparently Lloyd Wright took only three hours to design this unique building.

7 Inside out

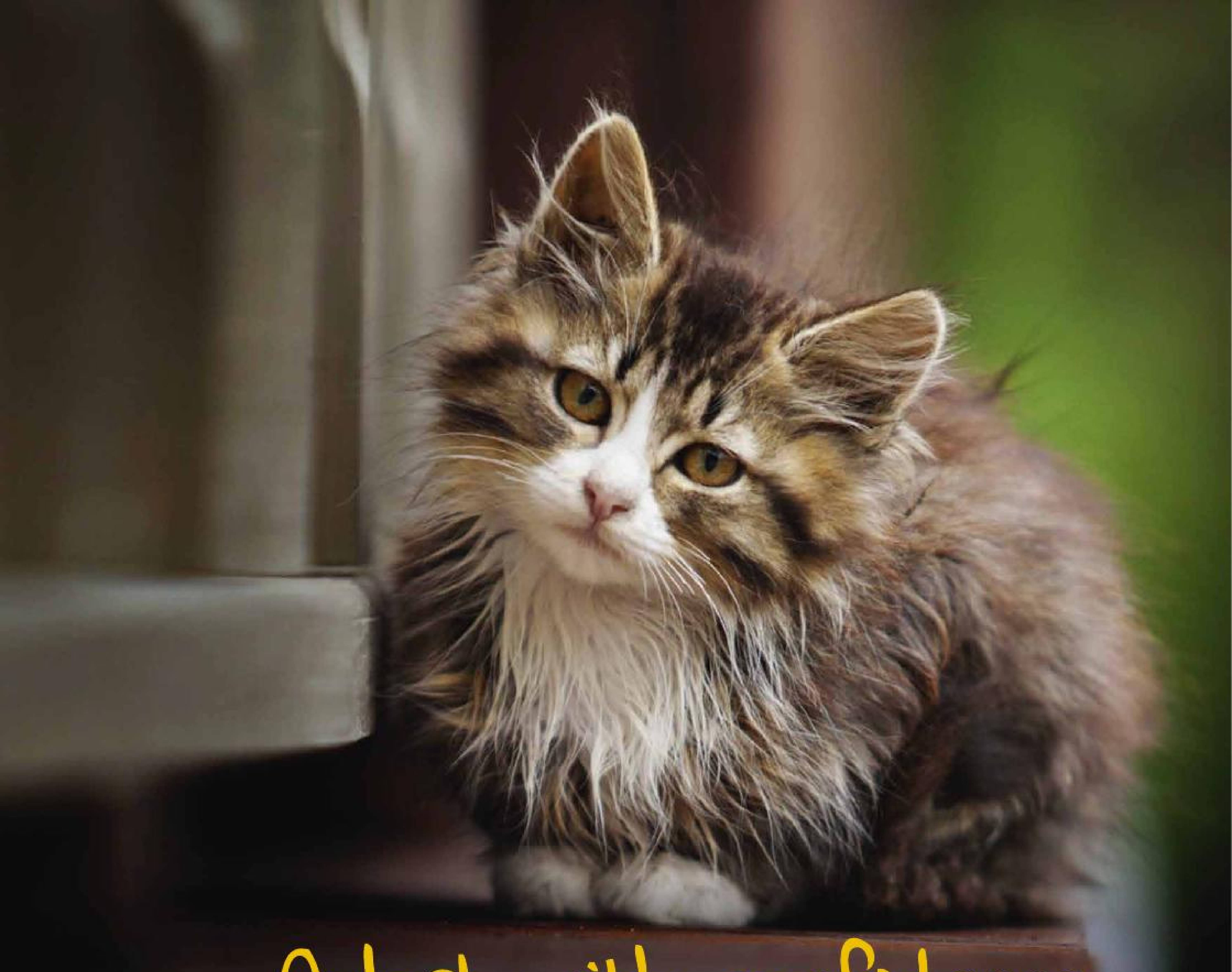
This seamless look, where dining room and terrace are on one level, has become very popular. The same paving material is used to link the inside and outside spaces.

Other useful resources

Find a local brick library
www.ibstock.com/gen-where-you-can-see-us.asp

To find books on architecture, building and landscape design
www.ribabookshops.com

The RHS Library is a fabulous resource for every aspect of gardens, design and gardening
www.rhs.org.uk/About-Us/RHS-Lindley-Library



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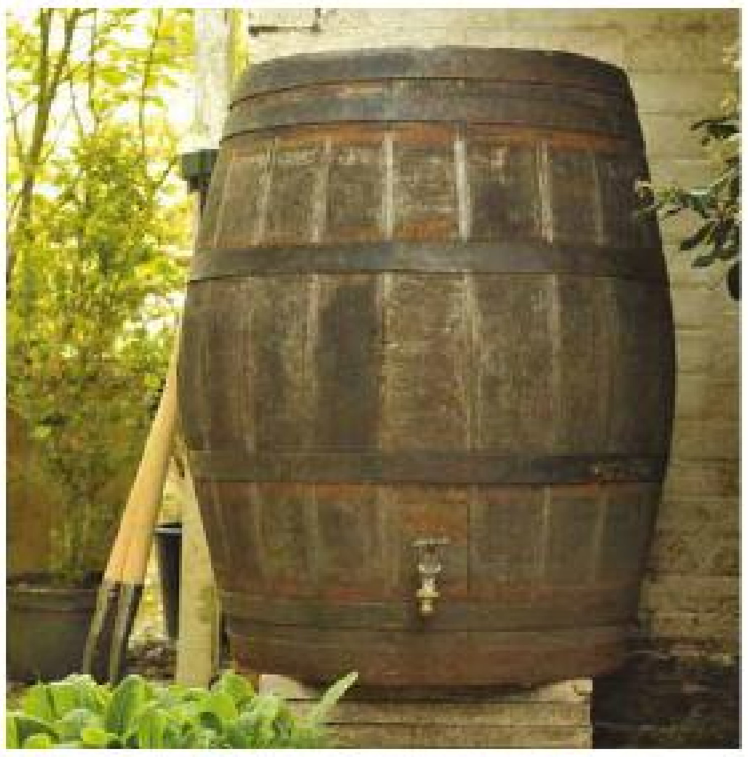
CATS PROTECTION

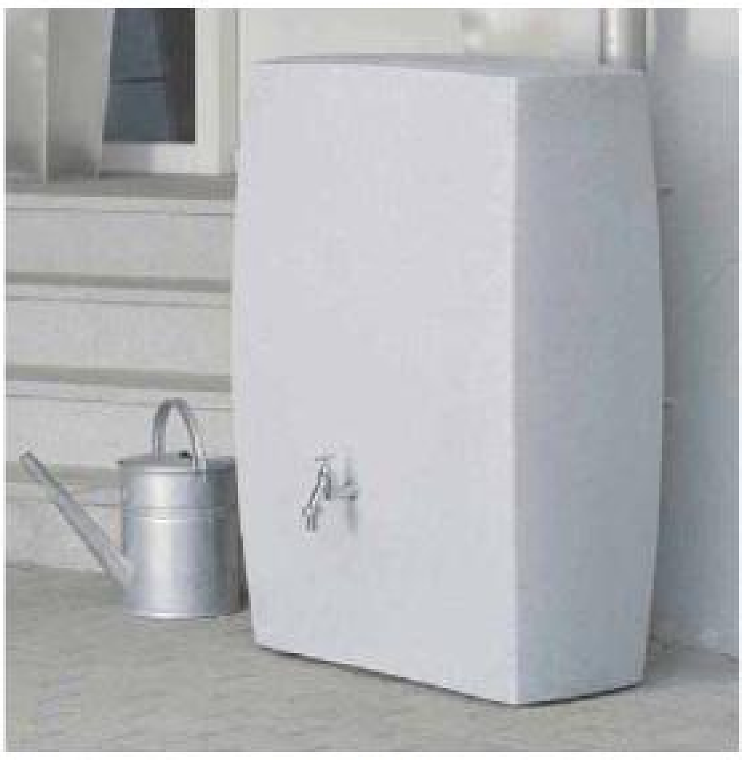
THE SHORT LIST

Water butts

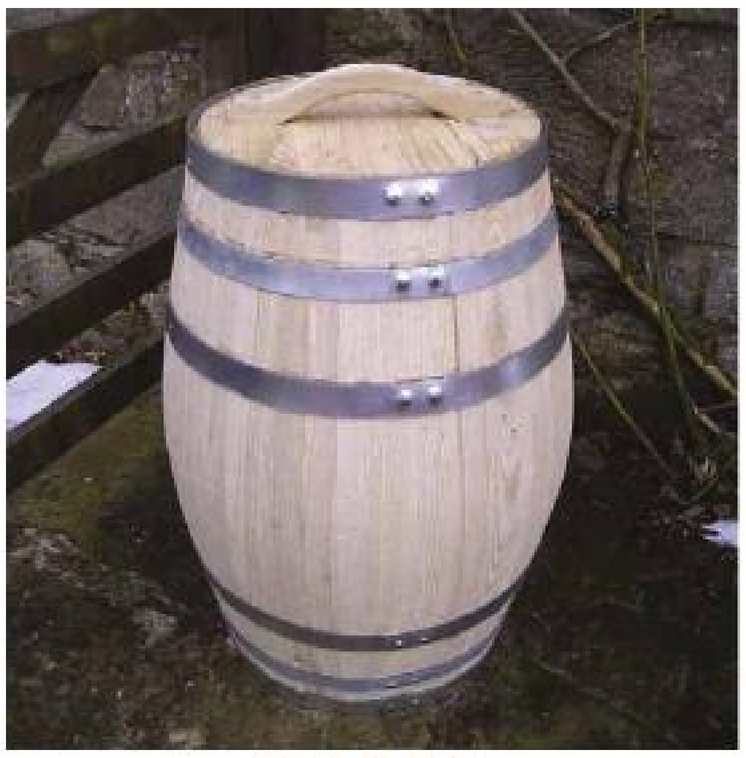
Looking for a water butt that's practical and stylish? Here are our favourites.



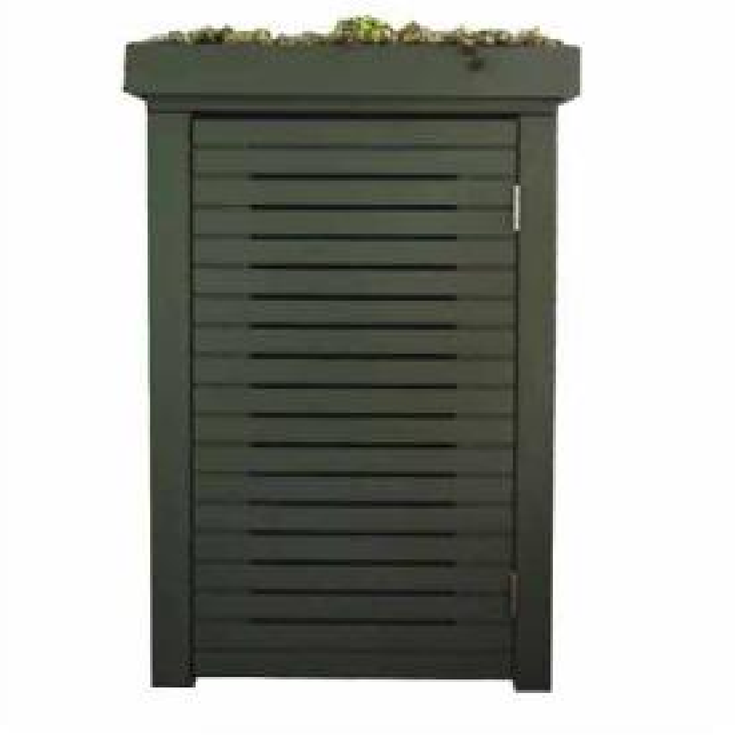
RUSTIC CHARM
Oak whiskey barrel water butt
181 litres, £159.99, Crocus,
0844 557 2233, www.crocus.co.uk



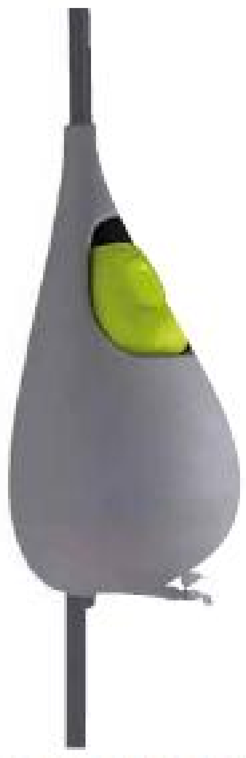
SMOOTH LINES
Noblesse decorative water butt
270 litres, £224.99, Noblesse,
01884 841515, www.waterbuttwarehouse.co.uk



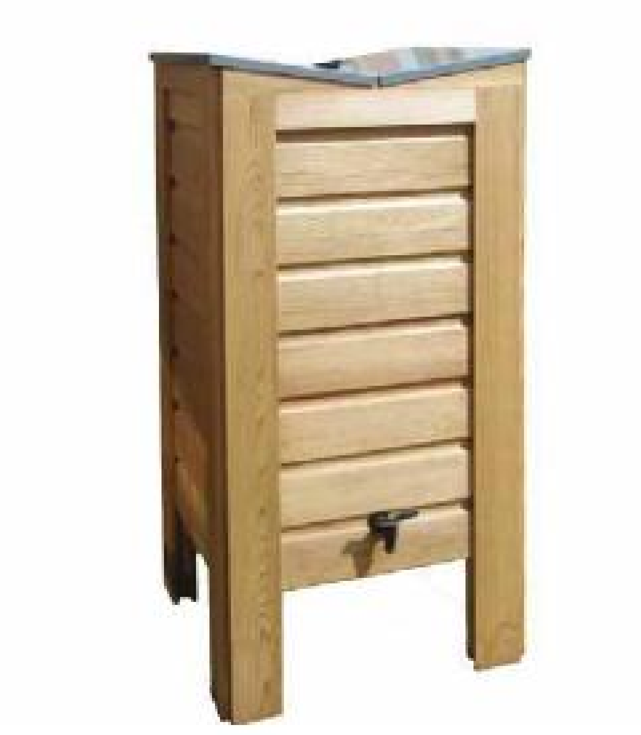
GOOD LOOKS
Chestnut barrel water butt
100 litres, £89, The Barrel Makers,
0191 482 4389, www.thebarrelmakers.co.uk



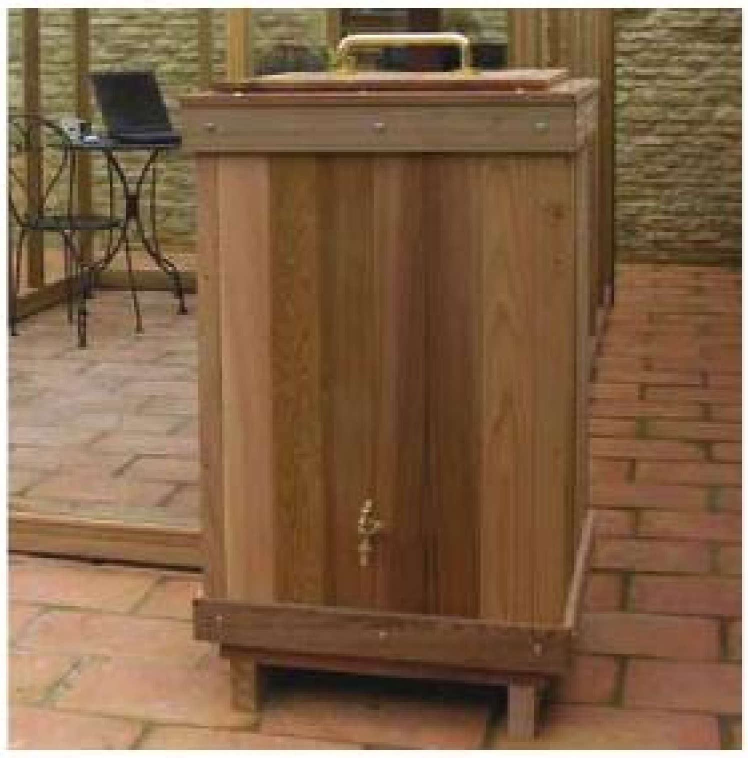
BESPOKE ROOF
Water butt with sedum roof
Bespoke, from £1,440, The Garden Trellis Company,
01255 688 361, www.gardentrellis.co.uk



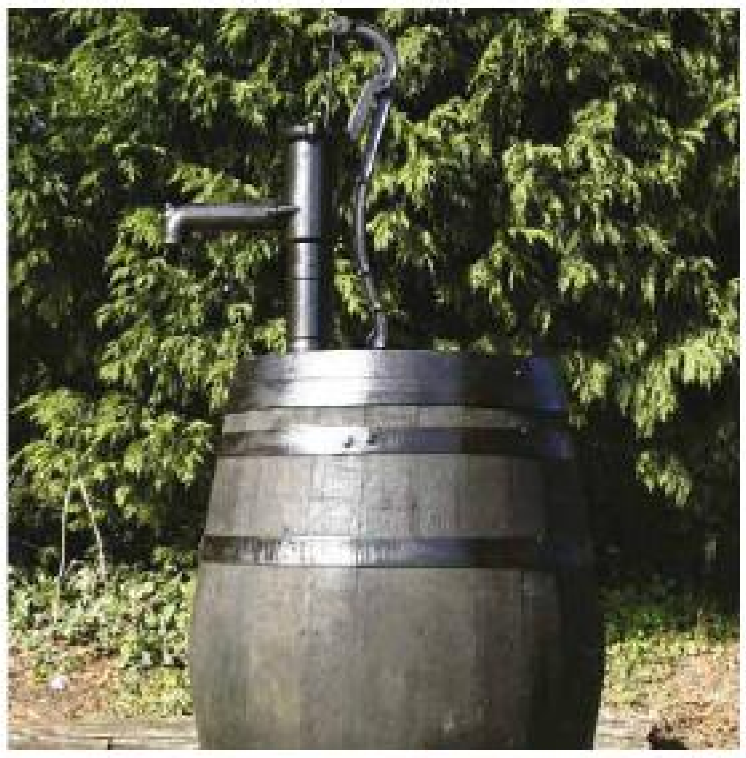
SLEEK AND PRACTICAL
Pure Raindrop
75 Litres, £199.99, Elho,
01884 841515, www.waterbuttsdirect.co.uk



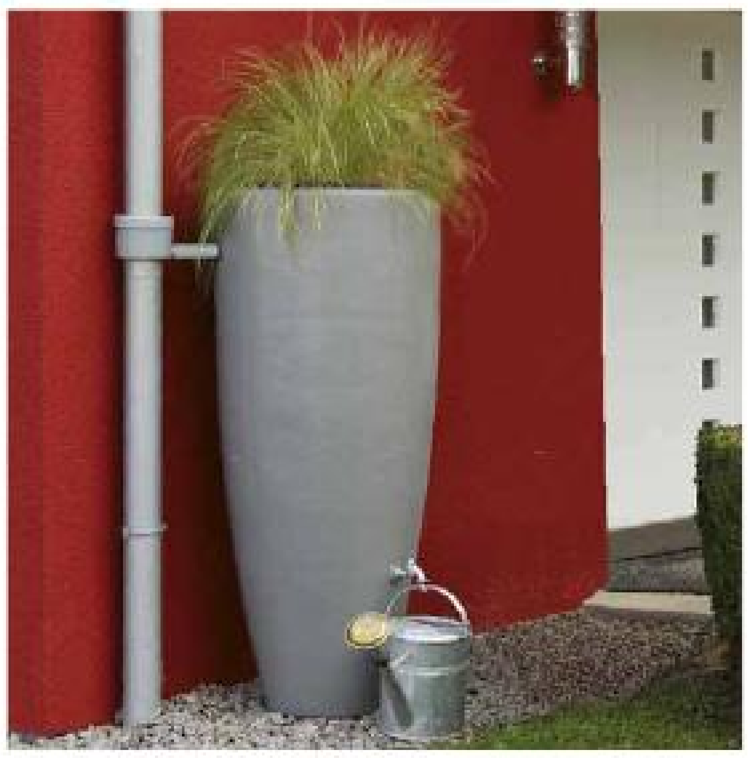
NEAT AND TIDY
Cedar water butt
114 litres, £349, Gabriel Ash,
0845 434 8897, www.gabrielash.com



FIRST CLASS
Cedar water butt
300 litres, £225, Woodpecker Joinery,
01889 562610, www.woodpecker-joinery.co.uk



TRADITIONAL OAK
Pump barrel
227 litres, £199.99, Suffolk Barrel Products,
01787 247600, www.suffolkbarrel.co.uk



ADDED VALUE
Graf 2 in 1 water collector with plant pot
300 litres, £249.99, Use Rainwater,
01327 263530, www.rainwater.co.uk

At the heart of the event is a weekend of talks and seminars given by international garden designers and landscape architects and held in the Teatro Sociale (below).

Bergamo's historic Piazza Vecchia is transformed into a garden oasis for everyone to enjoy throughout the 16-day event.

Celebrating urban environments and natural landscapes

I Maestri del Paesaggio: **International Meeting of the Landscape and Garden**

7-22 September 2013, Bergamo, Italy

The historic city of Bergamo, in northern Italy, is the location for this key cultural gathering, which brings together a series of events and exhibitions focused on how we can promote a more sustainable and integrated use of our landscape. This year's theme 'Feel the Water' looks at how the natural element of water can be used in design.

At the heart of the event is the conference (14-15 September) – with talks, seminars and workshops from internationally renowned urban and landscape architects and garden designers. All events held over the 16-day gathering are open to both professionals and interested individuals, with many free events open to all of Bergamo's visitors.

Event highlights

- Weekend conference of talks, seminars and workshops
- Attend a Gala Evening held in the town square
- Take a guided tour of the historic city of Bergamo
- Relax in the Piazza Vecchia, transformed into a garden setting
- Take a photograph and enter the competition to show how you spent your time at the festival

For information about the event and to register for the conference go to http://en.arketipos.org

Key event: Landscape and Garden conference 2013

Date 14-15 September 2013 **Venue** Bergamo, Italy **Cost** €110 + VAT (see website for discount options)

Cost includes translation service and three-day public transport pass. Optional workshops, lunch on 14 September and gala dinner charged at an additional cost.

LANDSCAPE & GARDEN EVENT
SUPPORTED BY GARDENS ILLUSTRATED

The event looks at how we can create a more sustainable use of landscape with particular regard to our urban spaces.

DARIO FUSARO

At this year's conference

Speakers

Sophie Agata Ambroise (Switzerland)
Landscape architect, known for her work on the gardens at the luxury Muse Hotel in St-Tropez.

Marco Bay (Italy)
Based in Milan, Marco has undertaken the landscaping for city developments, museum spaces and restaurants.

George Hargreaves Associates (USA & UK)
Senior principal at this firm. Of recent note is their role in creating the London 2012 Olympic Park.

Piet Oudolf (Netherlands)
Internationally renowned plantsman who has gained a reputation for his drift plantings of perennials and grasses.

Silvano Petrosino (Italy)
A scholar in contemporary philosophy, Silvano looks at the connection between morality and rationality in our behaviour.

Tom Stuart-Smith (UK)
Head of landscape design practice with a reputation for making gardens that combine naturalism and modernity.

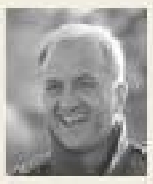
Hinnerk Wehberg (Germany)
From landscape architects WES & Partner, who focus on high quality artistic concepts for interiors and exteriors.

PLUS Chelsea Flower Show gold medal-winning designer, to be announced shortly. See website for details.

Workshops

John Brookes (UK)
An established designer, John looks at 20th-century abstract art: can it influence the 21st-century designer?

Gabriele G Kiefer (Germany)
Gabriele considers design within the context of 'Who rules the world – who owns the space?'



Clive Nichols (UK)
Well-known as a garden photographer, Clive will run a photographic masterclass offering hints and tips.

Marco Pozzoli (Italy)
Marco works all over the world. His workshop looks at urban landscapes under transformation.

Arend Jan van der Horst (the Netherlands)
Landscape gardener Arend Jan focuses on creating a modern garden design by getting inspiration from historical gardens.

Seminars

Maurizio Corrado (Italy)
How to create architecture from vegetation including techniques using bamboo, straw, rammed earth and green walls.

Annie Guilfoyle (UK)
For the GARDENS ILLUSTRATED-sponsored seminar, garden designer Annie considers the use of perennials and grasses in British gardens.

SPECIAL OFFER

The first ten GARDENS ILLUSTRATED subscribers to sign up for the meeting will receive a free pass to the Gala Dinner

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Downtools

Book reviews, reader letters, and crossword

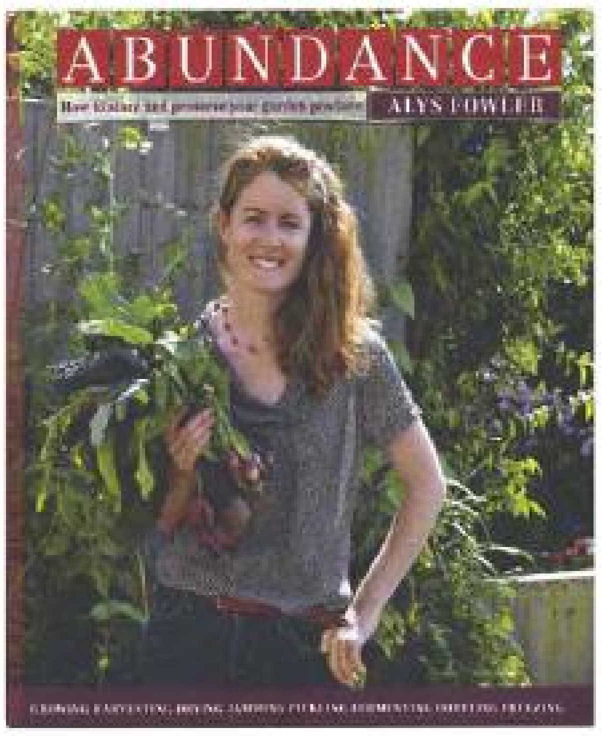
Alys Fowler's guide to storing and preserving garden produce is reviewed on page 108.

SIMON WHEELER

Book reviews

ABUNDANCE

by Alys Fowler
Kyle Books, £16.99
ISBN 978-0857830784



Why isn't Alys Fowler on the television more often? Her horticultural qualifications are impeccable, she has the sort of small urban garden that many of us can relate to, and she sports a fetching tattoo of an apple on her upper arm.

We are always being told that gardening programmes need to appeal to a younger audience and yet the one presenter who could do it seems to rarely get an outing these days. Fortunately she does make regular appearances in print. Her previous books have covered growing and foraging for food, so it is a logical progression for her now to turn her attention to preserving.

Abundance is a comprehensive guide to storing and preserving garden produce, and if that sounds a bit like a 1950s Women's Institute pamphlet, rest assured that this book is suffused from start to finish with Alys's distinctive brand of irreverent, intelligent eco-chic.

Like all good gardeners, she begins with advice about getting your soil into shape, moves on to list the best varieties for storing, then explains how to harvest each crop (am I the only one who didn't know apples should be cupped and gently pushed up to pick?).

SIMON WHEELER

The produce from your garden is worth preserving properly, as Alys Fowler explains in her new book.

The first recipe doesn't make an appearance until page 64 but, from there on, the book romps through a dazzling array of pickles, chutneys, jams, jellies and bottled fruits. Of course these include green tomato chutney and raspberry jam, but also beer-brined cauliflower, dry-salted gremolata and several pages on kimchi (an ancient Korean pickle with fabled health benefits).

This is a book for enthusiasts, but also a call for the uninitiated to embrace traditional skills that would otherwise be in danger of dying out. As Alys writes, 'I am sorry if your grandparent is no longer around to teach you how to bottle, but please, before that cycle hits again, teach others what you learn.'

You can't imagine Mary Berry telling you to lure a few friends round with beer to help process a glut of something. But Alys digs potatoes in red sandals, stores her pickles in the bathroom because there is nowhere else for them and, despite warning that 'you will make mistakes, things could explode', she will really make you want to fill your shelves with chutneys, kimchi and kraut.

Jodie Jones is the former deputy editor of Gardens Illustrated

book offer

RRP £16.99. **Reader offer price £15.29** including p&p.

GOOD COMPANIONS

by Josie Jeffery

Leaping Hare Press, £9.99

ISBN 978-1908005717

Josie Jeffery
GOOD COMPANIONS
The MIX & MATCH GUIDE to COMPANION PLANTING
Soil Association

In a time when people are becoming more concerned about the use of chemicals in the garden, they are beginning to consider using more natural methods of pest and disease control. *Good Companions* is the perfect book for all gardeners who have ever wondered about the principles that lie behind companion planting as a chemical free option. It describes the practice of growing suitable plants side-by-side to achieve a flourishing pest- and disease-free garden.

The author describes the exact process of companion planting and includes the ideas behind biodynamic methods of gardening, which some consider to be the 'new organics', and celestial gardening. Although I am not a supporter of the more mystical ideas of celestial gardening, I can accept the influence of the moon over tides and frosts. I can also accept that there is a natural symbiosis between certain plants.

The book is organised into six sections. The first five cover an introduction to companion planting, working with nature, botany, feeding and watering in the garden and useful weeds.

The final part is called the 'Directory of companion plants'. It consists of a series of mix-and-match pages that can be arranged to provide the reader with more detailed information on which beneficial companion plants are needed above and below the soil. It would have been better to move the key to the start of the directory rather than place it at the front of the book, because it does make cross-referencing the mix-and-match section difficult.

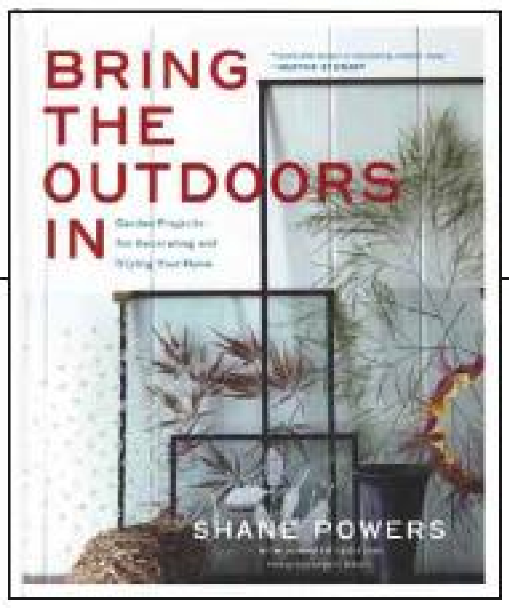
The author has provided the reader with a comprehensive and easily understood guide to the subject. It is packed with information and answers a lot of questions that many of us always wanted to ask. A very enlightening book for those who are interested in companion planting and wish to find out more.

Mike Thurlow is an author, gardener and gardening consultant

book offer

RRP £9.99. **Reader offer price £9.50** including p&p.

NASTURTIUM
PLUM
PEA



BRING THE OUTDOORS IN

by Shane Powers

Chronicle, £15.99

ISBN 978-1452107547

Shane Powers is a 'crafter' who uses plants like ingredients in installations, often giving fresh twists to old skills. The instructions on how to make each project are clear, but Powers also encourages you to try your own variations. He invites you to think about using different spaces for plants and arrangements, not just the mantelpiece or table, but 'unexpected spots that could benefit from a little romance'.

His 'Flowering Branch Wall Sconce' on a stair wall does just that – it is a simple piece, but somehow startling in its use of dried flowers attached to a found branch. 'Floating Pressed Botanicals' is another of my favourites. Pressed flowers become striking contemporary artworks between glass. A giant sphere of dried gypsophila is similarly arresting, turning a florists' staple into a dramatic hanging.

Shane Powers is a wonderful stylist; his pieces work impeccably with their surroundings. Although I found some of the arrangements with ferns and houseplants rather alien to my own aesthetic, they all inspired me to look yet more carefully at plants as ingredients and at how to place them in a setting.

Kristy Ramage is a writer and designer

book offer

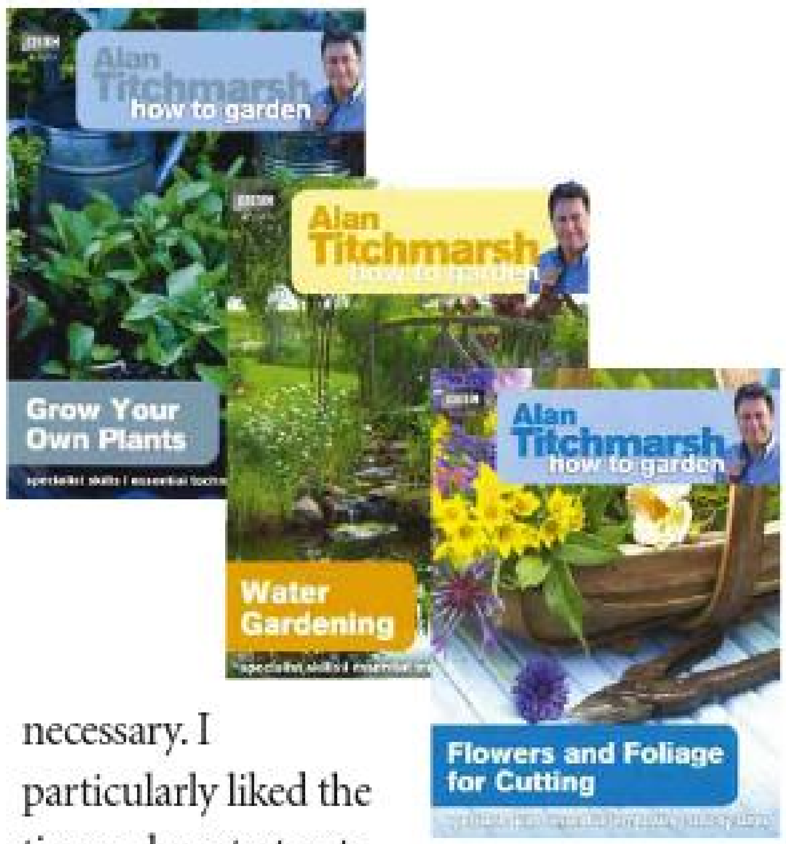
RRP £15.99. **Reader offer price £14.99** including p&p.

Book reviews

HOW TO GARDEN SERIES: Grow Your Own Plants, Water Gardening, Flowers and Foliage for Cutting

by Alan Titchmarsh

BBC Books, £7.99 each
ISBN 978-1849902243
ISBN 978-1849902229
ISBN 978-1849902236


Alan Titchmarsh how to garden
Grow Your Own Plants
Water Gardening
Flowers and Foliage for Cutting

Despite having left the *Gardener's World* potting bench a number of years ago, Alan Titchmarsh remains one of the nation's best loved gardeners. These latest in the 'How To' series are obviously, like the others, intended for the casual gardener who likes to work on one project at a time. That said, the books are simple without being simplistic. The use of drawings as well as photographs helps to make gardening techniques easy to understand – in *Grow Your Own Plants* the different types of cuttings (tip, stem, leaf, heel, basal etc) are very well laid out. And of course, if you are a fan of Alan's, the pictures of him gardening, taken by Jonathan Buckley, are reassuring too. This book is comprehensive without being overwhelming.

Flowers and Foliage for Cutting is highly recommended for anyone taking over a new garden. Since foliage is a longer-term investment, and shrubs are needed to lend structure to the garden, Alan recommends plants that will have the dual purpose of looking great both inside and out. The book is partly arranged by seasons, which makes a lot of sense, and it takes into account that most people have rather small gardens. So if you only have a few metres to play with, the suggested plans are for these sorts of sizes and can be scaled up if necessary. I particularly liked the tips on how to treat flowers to prolong their life and appearance. There is also advice on how to preserve the autumn leaves on stems such as beech, oak, rowan and smoke bush using just glycerine and boiled water.

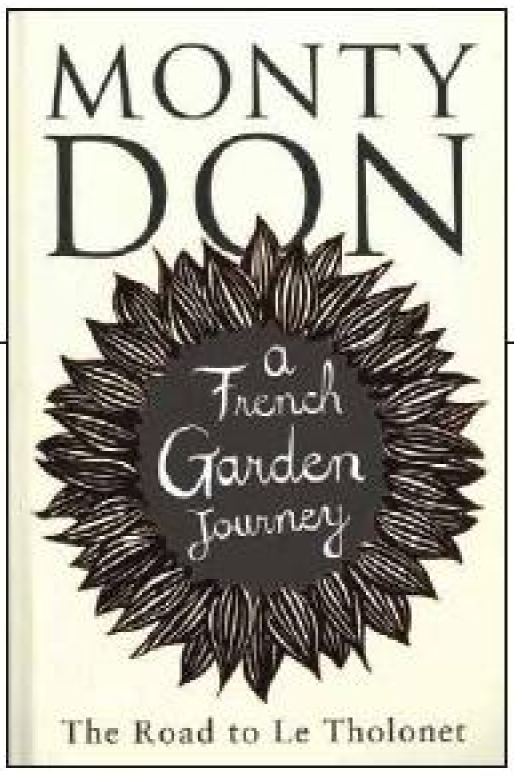
The third book, *Water Gardening*, is probably more useful to help you decide what water feature you would like, rather than being a 'how to' book. It would have been nice to have included a basic guide to creating a water feature in a barrel or old container rather than instructions on how to build a sunken rill. If you are after some of the water features in this book, I would suggest you call in a professional unless you have specialist training yourself, though there is a basic guide to plants and management of a pond. I look forward to many more in the series.

Lila Das Gupta is a freelance journalist specialising in gardening

book offer

RRP £7.99 each. **Reader offer price £7.50 each** including p&p.

Planning your cutting garden



THE ROAD TO LE THOLONET: A French Garden Journey

by Monty Don

Simon & Schuster, £20
ISBN 978-1471114571

Monty's latest book is beautifully written and wide ranging – and is as much a Proustian reverie of his early encounters with France as it is a guide to the gardens that he has visited. It is devoid of pretty pictures, with just a scattering of small black and white photographs. I found this freed me to appreciate every word in a way that doesn't happen when there are pictures to which you can refer. Whether or not I knew the garden, my understanding of it was enhanced.

His analysis of the difference between British and French gardeners rang very true – we are technicians, deeply involved and well-versed in the 'how to' and 'why' while most French garden owners have little interest in getting their hands dirty, employing others to do the work, while enthusiastically discussing the 'concept' of their garden. We garden with our hands, they garden in their heads. I read this book with so much pleasure that I voiced a disappointed 'Oh' when I turned the last page to find the index instead of another chapter.

Stephanie Donaldson is an author specialising in organic gardening

book offer

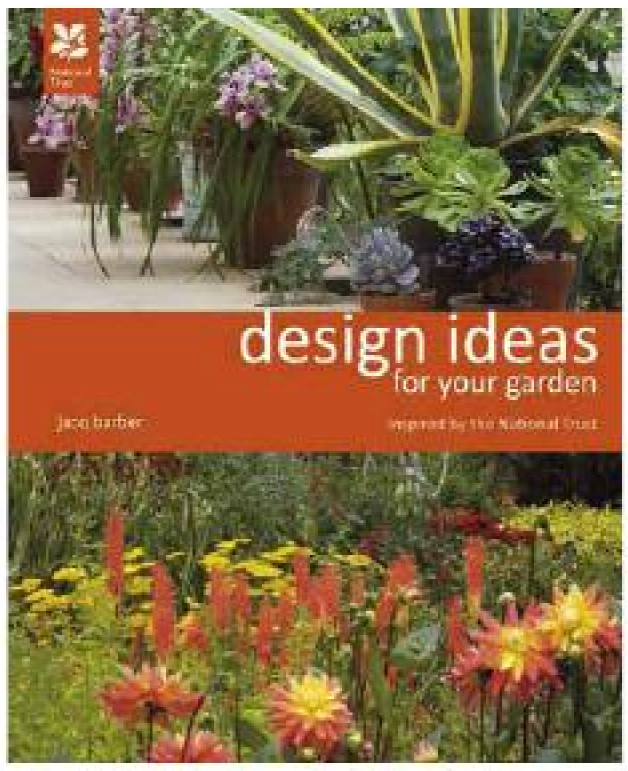
RRP £20. **Reader offer price £18** including p&p.

DESIGN IDEAS FOR YOUR GARDEN

by Jacq Barber

National Trust Books, £16.99

ISBN 978-1907892417



A lot of us, when we start gardening, spend time visiting National Trust gardens. It can however be quite challenging to make sense of what we see and enjoy: my own memory of this period of my life was that visiting these gardens and my own gardening were linked only by the 'I want' plants. Trust gardens were inevitably larger, and usually grander, than anything I could ever conceive of owning, so it was difficult for me to imagine that I could learn anything about design from them.

Which is where this little book comes in. If you are new to the idea of designing a garden, it will do much to help. This is achieved by teaching you how to make better use of your garden visits – you are shown how to 'read' National Trust gardens, to interpret them and make them accessible in terms of what can be done at home. There are multiple one- or two-page sections on particular garden features and elements; each is discussed through text and extensive and varied illustrations; plants, colour schemes and seasonal schemes are covered along with concepts such as 'texture' and 'harmony'. There are also features like 'topiary' and mini case-studies such as 'Convert an existing space'. The illustrations are clearly carefully chosen to show a wide range of the more intimate aspects of Trust gardens – the locations, features and plant combinations we can relate to. There are, however, enough 'classic' views to remind us where we are.

A 'Useful suppliers' list at the back helps guide beginner gardeners to sources for plants and information. The map of Trust gardens needs a magnifying glass, however, and I was sorry there was no easy system of cross-referencing between the map and the gardens featured in the book.

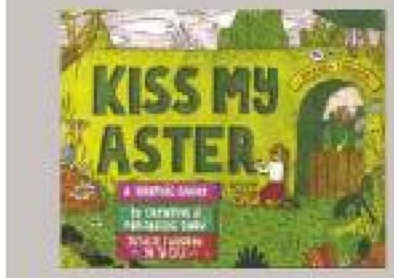
Not a design manual, or a how-to guide, *Design Ideas for Your Garden* is very much a book for dipping into, especially before or after a garden visit, whether National Trust or not. And it's a great source of ideas – an ideal book for someone who has perhaps just started buying copies of *Gardens Illustrated.*

Noël Kingsbury is a writer and plantsman

book offer

RRP £16.99. **Reader offer price £14.99** including p&p.

Other recently released books for gardeners



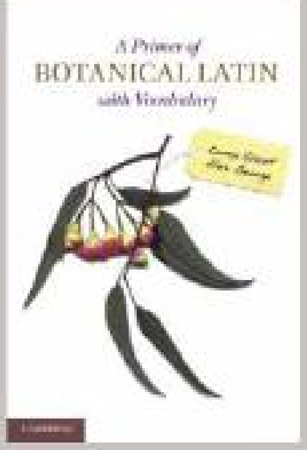
KISS MY ASTER

by Amanda Thomsen

Storey Publishing, £11.99

ISBN 978-1603429863

An irreverent illustrated guide to designing an outdoor space.



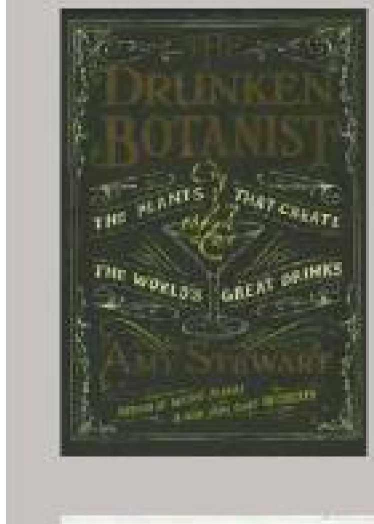
A PRIMER OF BOTANICAL LATIN WITH VOCABULARY

by Emma Short and Alex George

CUP, £24.99

ISBN 978-1107693753

A simple explanation of plant-related Latin.



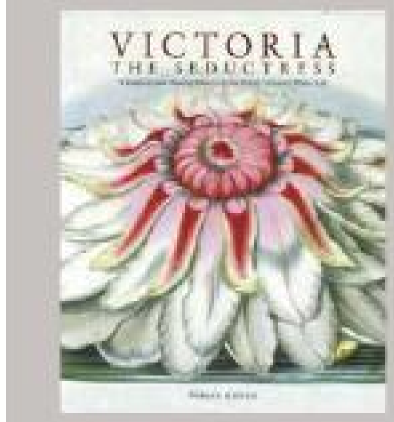
THE DRUNKEN BOTANIST

by Amy Stewart

Algonquin Books, £14.99

ISBN 978-1616200466

An eclectic new book on the hidden botany behind your favourite alcoholic drinks.



VICTORIA THE SEDUCTRESS

by Tomasz Anisko,

Longwood Gardens, £46

ISBN 978-1935442226

The story of the Victoria water lily – its discovery and adventures since.

book offer details

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Letters

Have your say – we'd like to hear your views, so please write to us at: GARDENS ILLUSTRATED, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN, or email letters@gardensillustrated.com

Star letter

Gardens worldwide

I just wondered if other readers around the world would be interested in knowing that there is a Mediterranean Garden Society, which is a non-profit-making association, originally registered in Greece in 1994, which acts as a forum for everyone who has a special interest in the plants and gardens of mediterranean climate regions. There are members in Norway, Denmark and a thriving branch in England, so essentially it is for all like-minded people interested in gardening but particularly where the conditions are more exacting. We visited Australia last October as guests of the branches in Victoria and South Australia. For us, retired English folk living in Italy, it was a total revelation. So, anyone interested could access the website www.mediterreangardensociety.org and view their country's local branch information. Hopefully this information will be of interest to readers of your magazine.

Janice Thompson, Italy

GARDENING

Keeping the faith

When I was 55 years of age I bought GARDENS ILLUSTRATED issue one, and I'm still buying it. I am still extremely active and gardening is my main hobby. Any day that is fine, I get some work completed and even when confined by cold and wet, there is occupation in the greenhouse. Congratulations on the 20th anniversary and keep delighting us all here in Ireland.

Charlie Wilkins, by email

DONATION

Library issues

I am now moving house, and I have had to dispose of a lot of things. I have with love regarded my rows of GARDENS ILLUSTRATED, collected since the very start in 1994. Your magazine has evoked in me a passion for gardens and gardening that has been as fulfilling as any hobby ever could wish to be. So I approached my local librarian, showed her this extraordinary magazine, offering my collection as a gift. This was accepted, and my hope now is that many novice gardeners will have as much joy out of it as I have had.

Gudrun Fahlman-Jernryd, Sweden

TEACHING

Resourceful

I have subscribed to your magazine for years, and look forward to its arrival every month. Here in the US, we don't have any publications that are remotely comparable. Recently, I have discovered another way in which GARDENS ILLUSTRATED shines. I have begun teaching classes in 'Landscape basics', and have found it a valuable resource, as the articles offer such succinct, well presented discussions that are excellent teaching tools.

Wickie Rowland, New Hampshire, USA

ART

Shed pride

My handmade garden woodshed sits proudly among towering hazels. The initial skeleton of the shed is made entirely from recycled wood, the roof being the base of my son's childhood train set. I like to call my masterpiece a living work of art as it is constantly changing throughout the seasons. Not only is it a happy home for logs, it is one to many living creatures. Birds have nested up in the rafters, and I often spot insects crawling in and out of the wood pile.

Olivia Lunn, by email

WRITE TO US & WIN

The star letter wins a pair of Felco secateurs, offering superior cutting ability and ease of use. Choose between the ergonomically designed No 8 for larger hands or No 6 for smaller, both worth £59.99. For details of Felco's full range go to www.felco.com

TALKING POINT

John David on the importance of the new RHS hardiness ratings for UK gardeners.

John David is chief scientist at the Royal Horticultural Society (www.rhs.org.uk).

After a series of notably cold winters, UK gardeners have been left trying to work out what is really hardy enough to survive in our gardens. This is where the new RHS hardiness ratings can help. They provide a guide to the conditions needed, from H1a for heated greenhouse plants to H7 for the very hardy.

This might seem like a simple relabelling of the USDA zones for the UK, but that system exclusively uses winter minimum temperatures. And whereas many parts of the US experience clear transitions between the seasons, in the UK a warm day in December can be a similar temperature to a cool day in June. Add to this that the RHS hardiness ratings take into account a wider range of cultivation factors, including lower summer temperatures, and we have a new system that makes sense of the climate we grow in.

The overall aim is to help gardeners choose the right plants for where they garden. We have provided ratings for many plants and the process continues. For more details, see *RHS Plant Finder 2013*.

- What's your view? Write to us by post or email (details above).

We reserve the right to edit letters.

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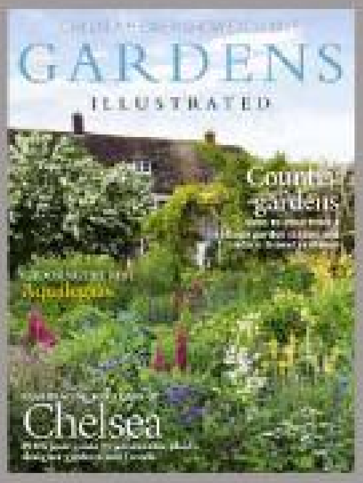
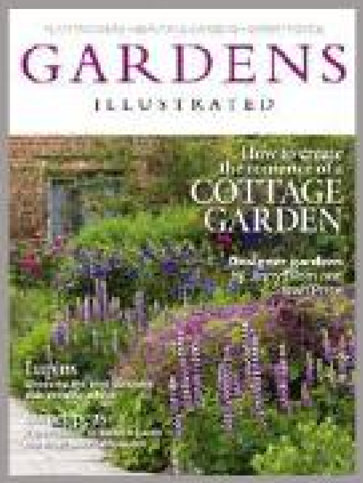
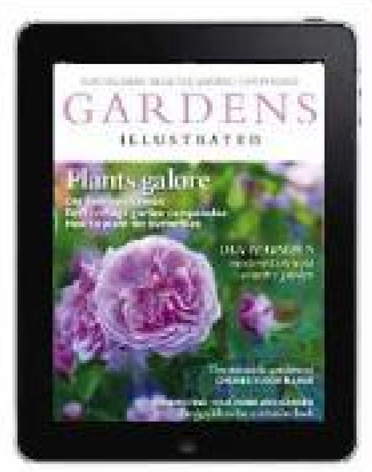

MAY 2013
The RHS Chelsea Flower Show special – history, designers, plants and products; country garden ideas; pots for pollinators; the best aquilegias; wooden planters.

JUNE 2013
How to create the romance of a cottage garden; designer gardens by Jinny Blom and Sarah Price; choosing and using the best lupins; expert guide to sweet peas.

DIGITAL ISSUES
GARDENS ILLUSTRATED is available as a digital edition – search 'Gardens Illustrated' on the App Store, Google Play or Zinio.com

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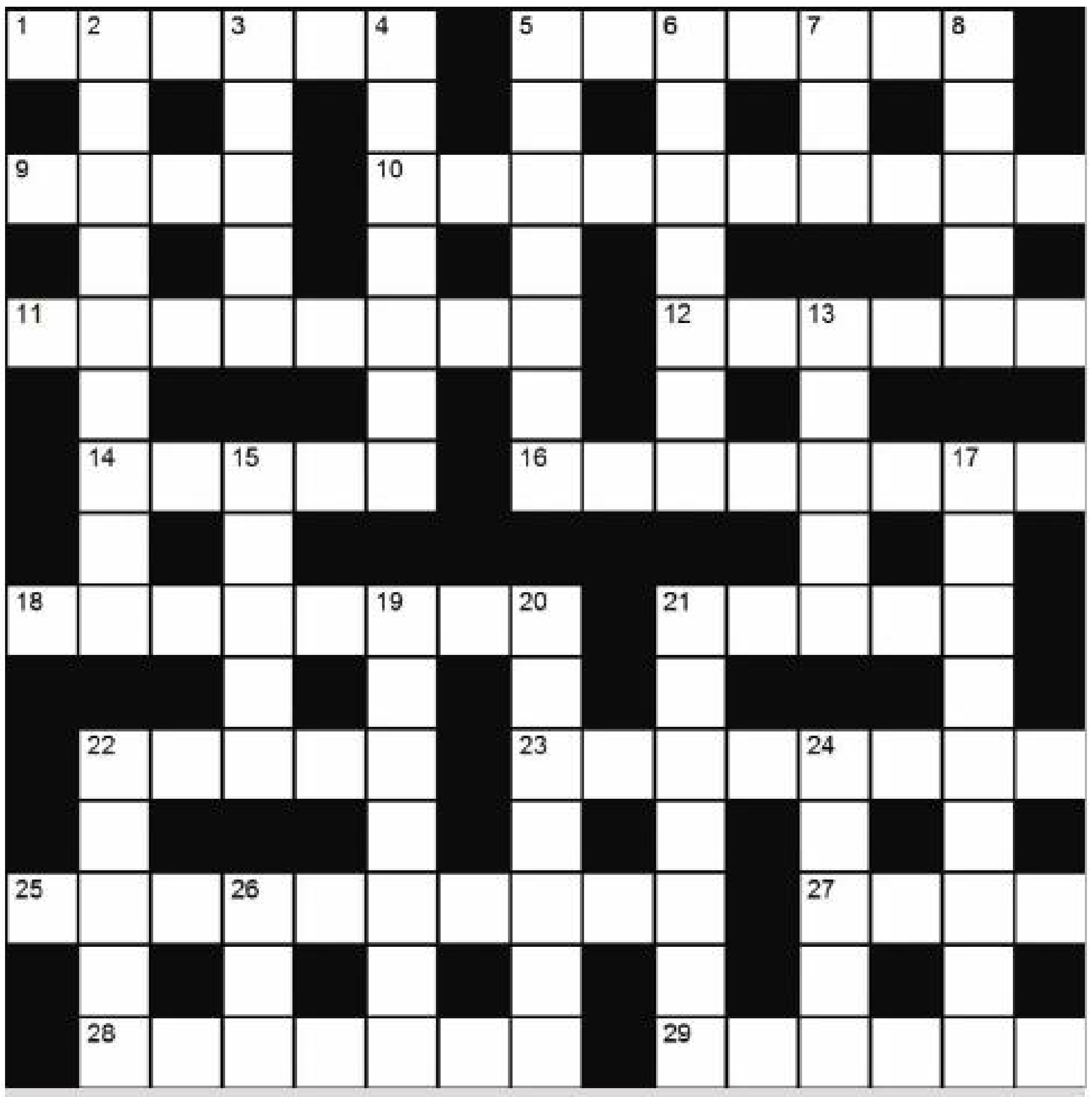
Crossword



ACROSS
1 What all seeds need for germination – affection? (6)
5 Commonly called 'Smoke bush' or 'Smoke tree' (7)
9 Abnormal tree growth? – impudence! (4)
10 Daisy-like plant – I, er, get 'arum' variety (10)
11 Genus of plants in the buttercup family – Naomi cut roughly (8)
12 Tall-stemmed feathery ___ grass, in *Cortaderia genus* (6)
14 Bird which, if ragged, is a type of campion (5)
16 Thoroughly soak (8)
18 Aromatic herb in Origanum genus (8)
21 Top of beech and some odd sweeper! (5)
22 See 4dn.
23 Fragrant flower of sugary vegetable? (5,3)
25 Hybrid hollyhock, cross between *Alcea* and *Althaea* (10)
27 Runner, say, found in the vegetable garden? (4)
28 A bedder, maybe, as some irises are (7)
29 Charles, 19th-century plant-hunter – gets wed, right away! (6)

DOWN
2 Genus of monkey puzzle tree (9)
3 Edible gourd (5)
4/22ac. RHS Flower Show venue in July produces top-notch arum (7,5)
5 Flat-headed flower clusters (7)
6 It's the shape of a daffodil flower – blow it! (7)
7 And not in Ryton or Rosemoor (3)
8 Spruce tree – possibly ask about it (5)
13 The mulberry genus – manure initially ruined ours (5)
15 A low-growing clump-forming clematis – small and elegant (5)
17 Describes a climate free from extremes (9)
19 eg regularly changed successive crops (7)
20 Brassica plant whose seeds make a condiment – cut it and impress! (7)
21 Common name for Monarda plant – honey producer with eg Melissa (3,4)
22 Famous person, briefly, in flipping abele coppice! (5)
24 Potato swelling or dahlia root (5)
26 Genus in the orchid family in shasta daisies (3)

SOLUTIONS TO THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD WILL BE PRINTED NEXT MONTH

JUNE'S SOLUTIONS
ACROSS: 1 Scab **4** Meconopsis **9** Spread **10** Mugwort **11** Fresh air **13** Layers **14** Osiers **16** Amateurs **18** Foerster **21** Thrips **22** Heater **24** Sunshine **26** Rhubarb **27** Indigo **29** Spotted dog **30** Wild.

DOWN: 2 Caper **3** Bee **4** Medlars **5** Cumbria **6** Nigella **7** Peony **8** Inter-crop **12** Spear **15** Stonecrop **17** Earth **19** Ternate **20** Rosebud **21** Tending **23** Trust **25** Nigel **28** Dew.

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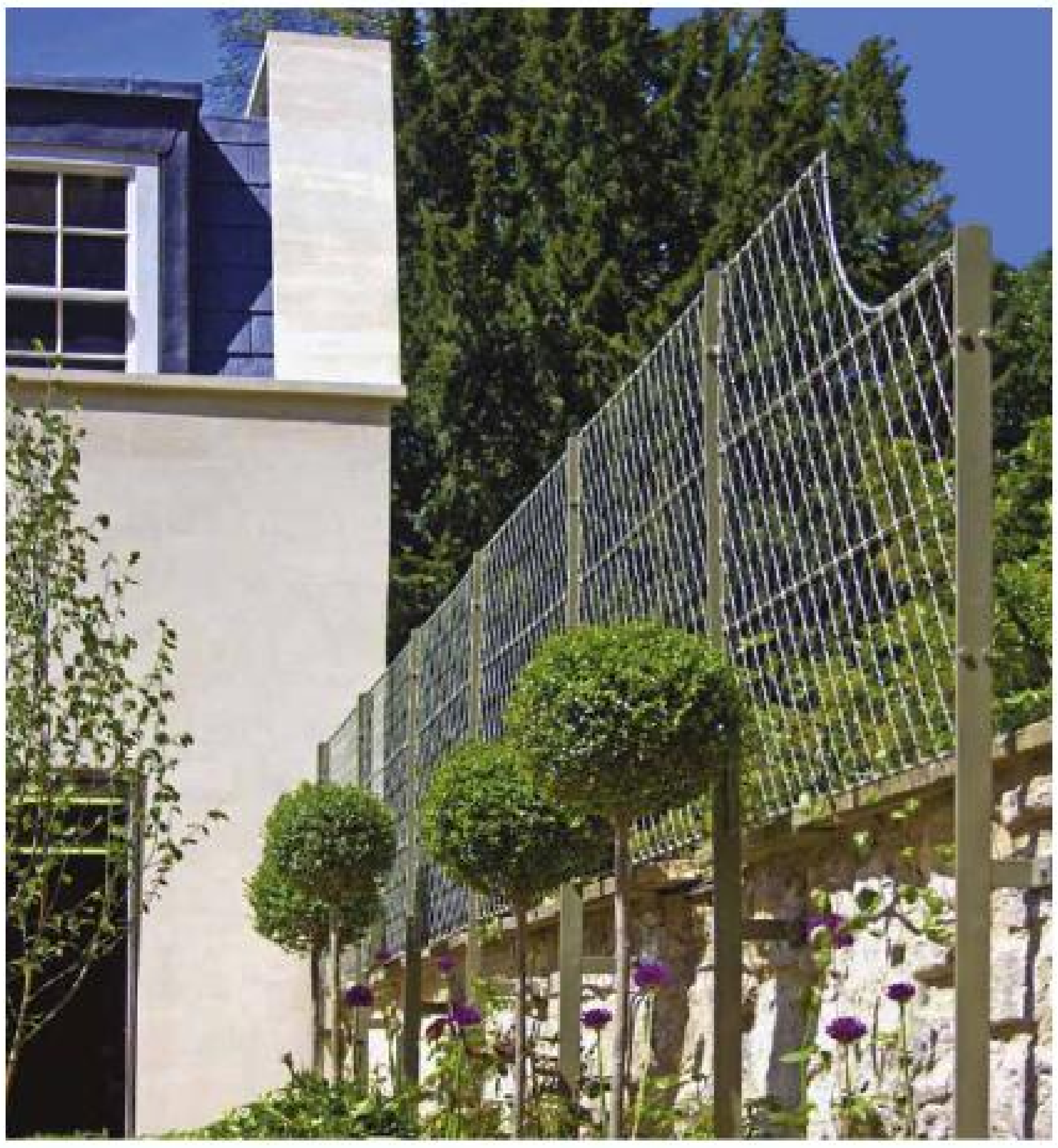

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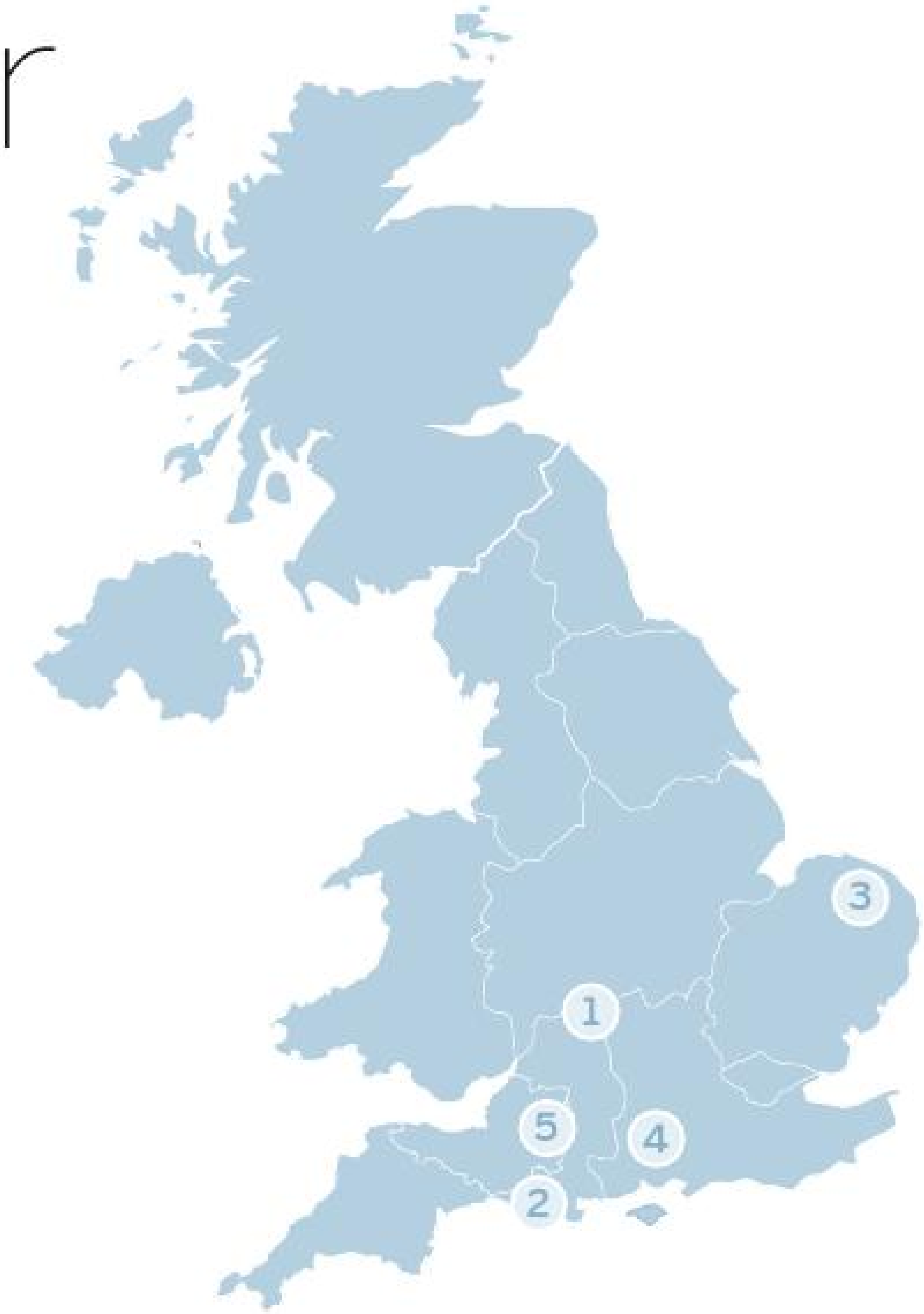

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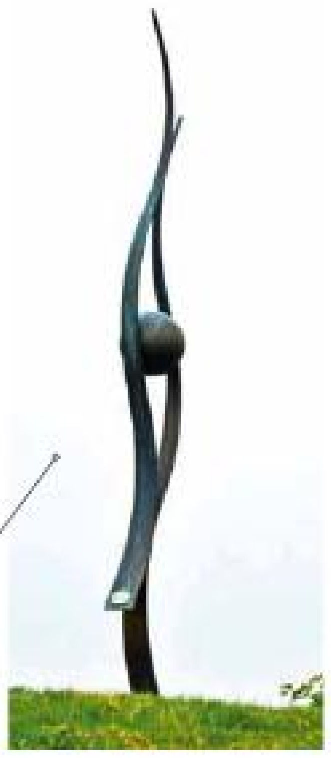

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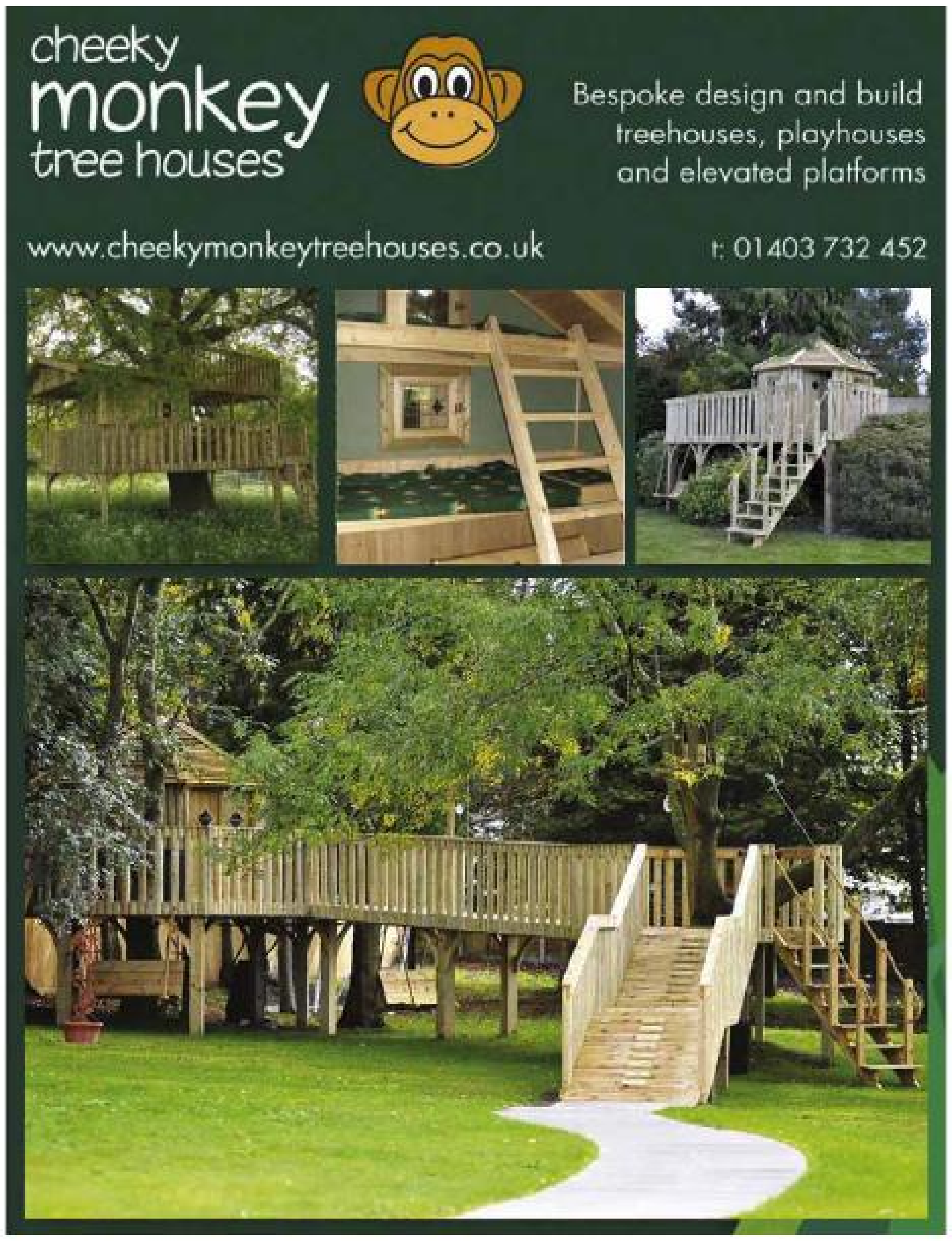
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BY ROBIN WHITFIELD

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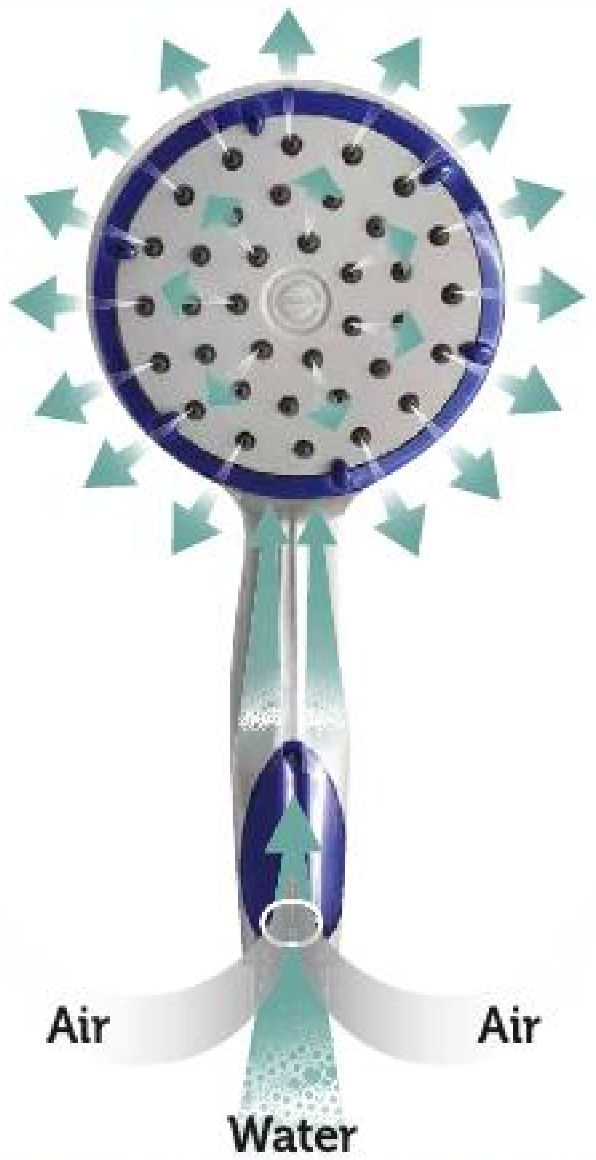

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RACHEL WARNE

The couch war

Several weeds cling to our columnist's garden, but he has identified his nemesis

WORDS **FRANK RONAN** ILLUSTRATION **ANGELA HARDING**

Angela Harding

It is the couch that is my real enemy. An enemy without a single admirable or redeeming trait

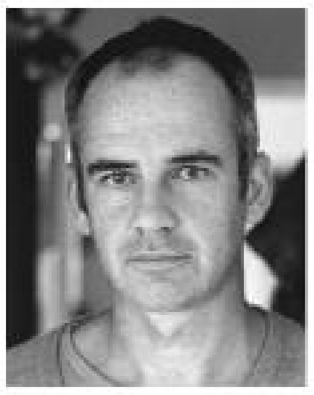
It is time to declare war on the couch. I can see it in the eyes of visitors as they scan the more prairie-like parts of my borders. Some seem almost on the point of asking if this is the garden I write about or whether there is another tucked away that might be worth mentioning. One or two have fled back towards the house and the drinks tray before they were compelled to make a tactless observation. Sometimes I try to corral them on the terrace and distract them with olives, responding, to any request to look at the garden, that food is nearly ready and we had better look afterwards. It is a certainty in the current climate that it will be pouring with rain by the time we quit the table, and I am spared the couch shame. But it can't go on.

The trouble with couch is that it weaves beneath and among plants that resent disturbance and you only peck at it, trying not to injure the roots of the host, until the day you discover the victim has died of strangulation and been replaced by a triumphant horde of straggle. Too late you realise that it would have been better to risk killing your precious whatever in the early stages, because what you have now is a couch stronghold from which couch battalions have been sent great distances to annex the rest of the garden. And it isn't even a grass that is nice to look at.

I had a great blitz last year in a place that was particulary bad, and dug the whole thing up in spring, filtering through the soil for every scrap of wiry rhizome – so sharp-ended that it had sometimes bayonetted right through the middle of an innocent corm or bulb, kebabbing its way to dominance. A strong membrane barrier was then put around the decontaminated area and every root ball and bulb checked before it was replanted. It looked fine for a while, but as the autumn frosts removed the cover, there was couch, and more couch, romping its way delightedly through the cultivated soil as though the whole exercise had been for its benefit. Give me bindweed any day.

The new battle plan is to attack it constantly with glyphosate, which is possible now that it comes in a gel form delivered by a kind of deodorant stick. I heard about this stuff last summer, but couldn't get hold of it in any of the shops because, I was told, it had been on the telly. Who knew that gardeners watched television? None of the ones I know do. Then last year was such a washout that by the time I got hold of some there wasn't another dry day to apply it. But this year, rain or shine, it will be blitzkrieg. Knowing that I am far too weak-minded to keep up the attrition myself, I've hired someone to go round once a fortnight and paint every blade in the garden. If it were me doing something as dull and unpleasant as that I'd be distracted after ten minutes. Steve, the couch-slayer, is confident that he is up to the task.

His brief is narrow: the couch and bindweed and hogweed and dandelions. They are the gang of four that pillage the borders. I don't really mind the dandelions but, because they are an ingredient in the meadow, we get more than we want and they could do with a cull. Bindweed is already on the back foot and just needs finishing off. Of hogweed there aren't so many, but they are stubborn brutes and need to be watched for. It is the couch that is my real enemy. An enemy without a single admirable or redeeming trait. Even a nettle has its handsome moments, but couch is an ugly, insinuating, mealy-mouthed kind of weed, as easy to hate as it is hard to kill. The war will be long and dirty, but worth it. ◻



Frank Ronan is a novelist who lives and gardens in Worcestershire

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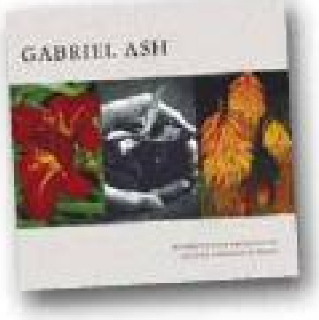

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